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MILITARY EDUCATION AND ARMY ORGANISATION.

"Ring out the thousand years of war, ring in the thousand years of peace." A goodly piece of work, Mr. Tennyson; but, unfortunately, it isn't begun yet. When it shall be completed, we should think not even Dr. Cumming would venture to prophesy. Man is still a fighting animal; and nations have not yet resolved to study war no more. The age of iron—of swords and guns—is still with us; that of simple ploughshares and reaping-hooks is yet, we fear, afar off. Nay, it seems more remote than ever; for is not all men's talk of war? and are not the ingenuity and energy of inventive genius directed to devising instruments of destruction, not to fabricating or improving the tools of industry? Not only is one mighty war now being waged before our eyes, in which it has cost a good deal of care to hinder our being entangled, but another, in which we may be compelled to take a leading part, possibly looms in the not very distant future. France and Germany are already engaged in a veritable death-grapple; and the action of Russia in reference to the Treaty of 1856 is not unlikely to enkindle a universal conflagration in Europe.

In these circumstances, and with that prospect before us, it is not unnatural that men's minds should be directed to the subject of army organisation and its kindred theme,

military education. As respects both these matters, this country is confessedly in a far from satisfactory condition. We have soldiers, but we have not an army; we have officers, but we have not leaders fitted by education and training for command. Up to the point of regimental organisation, our forces are, perhaps, second to none in the world, if they be not superior to any: but beyond that all is chaos. The formation of regiments into brigades, of brigades into divisions, of divisions into army corps, and of army corps into a *grand army*, is never attempted till our troops are called upon to take the field. Indeed, the two last-named organisations are unknown to our military nomenclature. Practically, we have not yet got beyond divisions; and it is doubtful if one single officer in the Army knows how to proceed further. And for the simple reason that none of them have been compelled to study the principles of their profession—the art and science of war—beyond mere regimental, or, at most brigade, routine; and few of them we fear have cared to do so voluntarily. For mere regimental duty our officers may be perfect, for aught we know; it is to be hoped that Colonels commanding have seen to that. But of grand military combinations—of strategy, tactics, and organisation on a large scale—they are entirely ignorant. Of mere army leaders—men competent to play their part creditably as subordinates, we have

abundance; but of scientific commanders—men capable of organising, combining, and directing the movements of large armies, we have none. That, at all events, is the account of affairs given by those who affect to know; and we see no reason to question the correctness of the statement. It is true that this state of things, or something very like it, has obtained in the British Army from time immemorial, and that, notwithstanding, the British Army has generally, if not always, managed in the long run to acquit itself with credit. We have never been ready to fight, but always ready to fight as we were; and, if called upon, our soldiers would, no doubt, still sustain the reputation of their country for courage and tenacity. But these are not times in which it is safe to trust to hap-hazard, or the happy-go-lucky chapter of accidents; nor to rely upon the stubborn courage of the ranks to make good the incapacity of commanders. Of that France has just afforded memorable illustration.

Our army is relatively small, and probably always must be so. Our absorption in industrial pursuits renders it impossible—at least excessively inconvenient—that large numbers of the most valuable portion of the community should be abstracted for the non-productive work of soldiering. But the fact our army is small, is the best of all reasons why it should be thoroughly efficient. The army is



"THE TWO MOTHERS."—(PICTURE BY R. WERNER.)



costly, too, for its size; and the country is entitled to expect, in return for the large sum expended yearly under this head, something better than the inchoate mass of men and regiments we possess. Why is it that that something better does not exist? Why are not our regiments organised into an army, properly so called? Simply, as we think, because our officers are not capable of so organising them; our officers are incapable because they are not thoroughly educated and trained for the work; and they are not educated and trained for their work because advancement depends, not upon superior knowledge, skill, experience, and efficiency, but upon favour, interest, and the possession of wealth. That, in our opinion, is the root of the mischief. It is absurd to expect that youths will thoroughly qualify themselves, mentally, for commissions when they and their friends know that commissions can be obtained without any mental qualification whatever; and it is equally absurd to expect, as a rule, that men, when they are officers, will study hard in order to fit themselves for promotion, seeing that they can buy their steps, if rich enough, without study; and that, if not rich, they have little chance of promotion at all, let them study never so hard. The wealthy ignoramus passes, by virtue of his mere wealth, over the head of his diligent, painstaking, and cultivated, but impecunious confrères. And so it comes to pass that in the British Army there are comparatively few officers who make a study of the principles and rules of their profession, or who, like Fluellen, delight in listening to, and taking part in, "discourses of the histories of the wars." Hence, also, is it that while, as we have said, there are among the officers of the British Army abundance of good subordinate leaders, we are woefully deficient in men capable of high command. Hence is it, further, that while we have plenty of men of the very best material for warriors, and no lack of well-drilled regiments, we have no army, in the real, true, and technical sense of that word. In order to remedy this evil, we must begin at the beginning, and make it the rule that commissions shall be obtained, in the first instance, by superior fitness, not by favour or for cash; that promotion afterwards shall follow the same rule; and that, finally, high command shall be the guerdon of superior capacity and attainment, not of mere family or personal influence. We know, of course, that a pretence of education for the Army is gone through in a certain number of cases ere commissions are granted; and that we have a military school at Sandhurst; but we know also that the training there is confessedly a sham, and that that establishment has come to be a place where young men lounge away a certain length of time, but that it is not a place where study is practised or genuine military education imparted. And this for the reason already stated, that real study and genuine military education are not made essential to obtaining commissions.

Another phase of the same fault in our military system is, that officers belonging to the only really professionally educated branches of the service—the Artillery and Engineers—are practically excluded from the chance of winning the highest prize—supreme command—that is set before a soldier's ambition. That is usually reserved for infantry officers; perhaps, professionally speaking, the most ignorant branch of the service. Scientific officers—men who have qualified for their work by hard study—must always look forward to holding the position of subordinates to officers brought up in marching regiments, who have really had no professional education whatever beyond mere company and regimental drill. The name of Lord Napier of Magdala, who, we believe, is the only, or nearly the only, scientific officer who has ever attained to an independent command in the British Army, should not be allowed to illustrate a rule by being a solitary exception; such exceptions should become the rule, and high commands be open to scientific as well as to what are called "fighting" officers. In other words, that the best men should be called to the front; that rank, high command, and the chance of winning fame and honour, be thrown freely open to all branches of the Army, merit alone being the condition of success.

It is said that Mr. Cardwell is engaged in elaborating a grand scheme of Army reform. We hope so; and we hope, further, that the said scheme will include a reformation from the very bottom of our military system; that the anomalies to which we have referred will be unsparingly attacked; that efficiency, rather than numbers, will be aimed at; and that the blunderer's expedients—more men and lavish expenditure—will be discarded. If Mr. Cardwell's plans be conceived in this spirit, we may hope to see the time when, if Great Britain should not be a great military Power—which it is neither desirable nor necessary that she should be—it may at least be said of her that she possesses an army calculated to render her safe at home and respected abroad. We have no objection to the Army being officered by gentlemen, conventionally so-called. It is, perhaps, desirable that the natural leaders of the people, as the aristocratic classes ought to be (the word itself implies that), should also be leaders of the nation's forces; but we protest against the notion that commissions in the Army should be retained as a sort of feudal appanage of the privileged orders; and, gentleman or no gentleman, we insist upon it that every officer should be called upon to thoroughly fit himself for the work he undertakes, and to show proof that he has done so; and that rank, emolument, and honour should be freely open to the emulation of all—to the high as to the humble, to the poor as to the rich. Only on such conditions can the State expect to secure efficient servants and worthy service.

THE FLYING SQUADRON, under the command of Rear-Admiral G. T. P. Hornby, entered Plymouth Sound on Tuesday morning.

THE TWO MOTHERS.

THERE is something very terrible about a goose—not when it is seasonably stuffed, and the whiffs of incandescent sage and onion gently stimulate the appetite five minutes before dinner or Michaelmas Day, but in its free and feathered state as a denizen of the farmyard or the village-green, where it is one of a phalanx that might claim right of precedence from their connection with the historic cackling that saved a renowned city. Ever since that great classical exploit, the goose is ready to renew the vocal encounter on the approach of a stranger, and with thrilling hiss to greet an intruder with fierce defiance. To town-bred children, the serpentine neck, the gleam of the fiery eye, and the loud sibilation, are awful things; and even to the tiny country maiden, not yet advanced to the responsible post of tending the feathered flock and ruling them by her long willow withie, the first onslaught of the maternal bird, either protecting her downy brood against possible danger or foraging in their behalf, is an event not to be at once separated from preternatural terrors. Mr. Werner has admirably caught the whole expression of such a scene in the picture an Engraving of which we publish in our present Number; and, though the patient mother who sits there placidly busy with her needle can regard the greedy demonstration as an expression of careful interest in the little gobbling fledglings, it will be long before her tiny daughter will venture to advance a fresh instalment of crumbs in the confidence that mamma goose can cackle for pleasure and entreaty as well as in anger or defiance.

GENERAL VON MOLTKE.—There is suddenly an uprising in the eating-room of the Hôtel des Réservoirs, where we sit listening and pondering a great clanking of steel scabbards and spurs, and clink of glasses on many tables. Dukes reigning, and Dukes who will never reign, and Princes Royal and Scène, and all the uniformed host at many tables rise, and stand, as it were, at "Attention," as a tall thin old man, with slightly stooped shoulders, walks out hurriedly with an abstracted air, puffing his cigar; round headed, with many-wrinkled brow, face clean shaven and hairless, no moustache, only a thick eyebrow over a speculative eye, which looks out as if far beyond any distant object. "Who is that?" asks one of the English refugees. "He must be somebody." "It's Von Moltke." "Oh, indeed! Well, he has driven us out of Paris, any way." There is the great painter Werner come to paint his picture for the town of Kehl, where Von Roon was born. He is to be represented directing the investment of Paris, which is seen in the background with the German armies defiling in the middle distance.—*Times' Correspondent in Versailles.*

THE SMITHFIELD CLUB CATTLE SHOW.—The preparations for the forthcoming cattle show at the Agricultural Hall, Islington, have commenced, and it is understood that many improvements are contemplated, with a view to secure the comfort of the public as well as care for the animals. The entries of stock being now completed, it has been ascertained that the number of animals to be exhibited will be far in excess of those of last year, and every available inch of space in the area will be appropriated to the cattle and sheep classes; whilst the basement of that portion of the building known as Berner's Hall will be occupied by the pigs. All implements intended for exhibition will have to be at the Agricultural Hall by the 30th Inst., and the stock to be exhibited must all be in their places in the show before ten o'clock on the night of Saturday, Dec. 3, as after that hour none will be admitted. Amongst the entries of the present year the Queen will exhibit several specimens in the Devon and other classes, and enter into competition with the Prince of Wales, who has become a warm patron of the club and contributor to the show.

RIOT IN CORK.—A serious riot took place, on Sunday night, in Cork. Between eight and nine o'clock fifty or sixty soldiers marched from the barracks into the town, "for the purpose," it is stated, "of avenging the death of Private Gibson, of the 1st Dragoon Guards, who died from the effects of injuries received in a disturbance with some civilians last week." The soldiers went into a public-house, and with their belts, stocks, and weapons attacked a number of people who were drinking there. A desperate fight ensued, and ultimately the soldiers were put to flight. Hearing of the fight, another party of soldiers, about forty strong, came from the barracks, breaking the glass in all the houses they passed and beating everybody they met. A large crowd prepared to receive the soldiers in Bridge-street; and it was only by the arrival of the armed police that a riot of a most serious character was prevented and the soldiers were driven back to their barracks. Several soldiers, policemen, and civilians were seriously injured.

THE RESIDENTS NEAR PARIS.—A letter in the *Cologne Gazette* from the camp before Paris says the first breath of peace has brought quite a number of fugitive families from their hiding-places. God knows where they have been concealed. Lines of them are seen on the roads of the Seine-et-Marne Department, with bearded-up wagons, in which they are bringing household goods back into their villages. The poor creatures must have hidden mostly in the woods, and have suffered much. They now appear again in the light of day, with sandcans, tables, chairs, chests, and beds. A goat, donkey, and horse belong almost to every household; and from the side of the loaded cart hangs a large hutch, containing the wild rabbits which serve them for food. The external appearance of the poor people is often pitiable. Their clothes are bespattered with mud, frequently, indeed, incrusted with it, as they never undress in the damp woods. Their feet are bound up with rags; their weather-stained faces are gipsy-like, and they shun the German soldiers if they meet any on the road.

THE MONARCH.—We are authorised to make public the results of the recent experiment made for ascertaining the precise position of the centre of gravity of the Monarch, and of the calculations based thereon for measuring the exact amount of her righting force at every angle of inclination. As these results would have no public interest except in a comparative form, the particulars given are confined to those which have been already made public in the recent inquiry into the loss of the Captain, in order that the comparative stability of the two ships at their deep-load draught of water may be seen. The results are such as must reassure any persons who inferred from certain points of similarity in the two ships that the Monarch was not as seaworthy as has been hitherto supposed:—

Angle at which the edge of the deck is immersed ..	Monarch.	Captain.
Amount of righting force in the above position in foot tons ..	28 deg. ..	14 deg.
Angle of maximum stability ..	12,542 ..	5700
Maximum amount of righting force in foot tons ..	40 deg. ..	21 deg.
Angle at which the righting force becomes zero ..	15,615 ..	7100
Reserve of dynamical stability at an angle of heel of 14 deg. in foot tons ..	69 $\frac{1}{2}$ deg. ..	54 $\frac{1}{2}$ deg.
	6500 ..	410

The best measure of the comparative power of the two ships to resist upsetting, after a given angle of inclination is reached, is to be found in the dynamical stability. This is seen to be at angle of permanent heel of 14 deg.—nearly sixteen times as great in the Monarch as it was in the Captain. In other words, if both ships were inclined under sail at the angle which immersed the edge of the Captain's deck, the reserve of energy to prevent upsetting by a squall would be in the two ships in the proportion of 16 to 1.

Bankrupt Peers.—The bankruptcy of five peers during the last few months has raised the question of the propriety of excluding bankrupts from the House of Lords, as they are excluded from the House of Commons. The continuance of bankrupts as members of one branch of the Legislature, while they are not admitted to or are expelled from the other, will inevitably lead to comparisons between the two which cannot fail to issue in injurious consequences. It is important that nothing should be permitted which tends to shake confidence in the hereditary Chamber, and it behoves the Lords seriously to consider if the period has not arrived when in the matter of bankrupt peers it is not their duty as well as their interest to set their House in order. Of course, it is easy to understand why bankrupts have been all along ineligible to or liable to expulsion from the House of Commons. That they were bankrupt afforded conclusive evidence that they did not possess the property qualification formerly required in them. On the other hand, the feudal origin of the House of Lords rendered it superfluous to institute any securities against the impoverishment of its members, and, seeing that the bankruptcy laws only applied to traders, still more superfluous to provide that they should not be bankrupts. Chief Justice Gilbert says, in his "History of the Court of Queen's Bench," in reference to the immunity of the Peerage from arrest on civil process:—"Against a peer, he always being presumed to have an estate in land, no capias lies." And West, in his "Inquiry into the Manner of Creating Peers," also traces this immunity to the assumption of law that there would be found on their baronies sufficient to draw for the satisfaction of any debt." Indeed, in the old time poverty was regarded as a legitimate reason for demanding the surrender of a Peerage by a claimant to the Crown. A remarkable instance of this is mentioned by Sir Bernard Burke in his "Vicissitudes of Families." Roger Stafford, grandson of Henry Lord Stafford, by his wife Ursula Pole, daughter of Margaret Plantagenet, Countess of Salisbury, proved his pedigree before the House of Lords, and petitioned Parliament for the recognition of his rights. His claim was referred to the Crown, and the Crown decided that "the said Roger Stafford having no part of the inheritance of the said Lord Stafford, his grandfather, nor any land or means whatever," should make a resignation of his barony of Stafford, for his Majesty to dispose of as he should see fit. In pursuance of this award, Roger Stafford, by deed dated in 1639, in consideration of the sum of £500 paid to him by Charles I., granted and resigned his peerage to the King.—*Pal. Molt. Gazette.*

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

Mr. Wodehouse, who, with a convoy of British subjects, was allowed to leave Paris by the German authorities, has arrived safely at Versailles. Some of the party were in distress. They report that provisions in Paris were short, but that order was maintained. The allowance of fresh meat was fifty grammes a day to each person.

The Paris papers announce the arrest of M. Flourens, who was taken without difficulty while walking in plain clothes in the Rue Menilmontant.

M. Jules Ferry met M. Rochefort (who, as already mentioned, had concealed his address) at the performance of Victor Hugo's "Châtiments," at the Porte St. Martin, and very strongly urged him to come back to his colleagues of the Government of the National Defence, who were ready to receive him with open arms. M. Rochefort did not at once yield to M. Jules Ferry's arguments and entreaties; but it is doubted whether he will long remain obstinate, more especially as the failure of the armistice removes his principal objection to continue to sit in the Government council. He is said to be preparing a volume, to be published only after the war, entitled "The Government of the National Defence."

A disturbed state of affairs prevails at Toulouse. M. Duportal, the Prefect of the Haute Garonne, has been invited to resign by the Government, but refuses to do so, and is supported by the Administrative Municipal Council. The gentleman whom the Government wished to accept the post refuses unless M. Duportal resigns voluntarily. At Nismes a demonstration has been made against the Mayor for refusing to join the Southern League. The National Guard, however, support the Mayor.

A number of Swiss officers of the late Papal army have joined the Zouave force forming under Baron Charette, late Colonel in the Papal service, the Comte de Chambord expressly permitting Baron Charette and other Bourbonists to fight under the Republican colours against Germany.

A very wise and humane measure has been decreed by M. Crémieux, as Minister of Justice, to the effect that no Judge who took part in the mixed Commission of 1851-2, and who, as a member of the same, pronounced the depositions, banishments, and imprisonments of the Republicans, is now to be imprisoned for it. Those who have already been cast into prison are to be released immediately. But, the Minister adds, he has the lists of all those Judges before him, and it is his office to propose to the Government what measures he would deem fit regarding them. No other citizen or authority has any right whatever to interfere with them.

ITALY.

Signor Ricasoli has announced to the electors that he has decided to retire from political life.

The Senators San Martino and Ajacini, in the name of several Senators and Deputies, have published an electoral programme in favour of electoral and administrative reform in the sense of decentralisation.

SPAIN.

The Duke d'Aosta has been elected King of Spain by 191 votes against 120. Sixty-four deputies voted for the Republic, twenty-two for the Duke de Montpensier, eight for Marshal Espartero, two for the infant Alphonso, and one for the Duke de Montpensier's daughter. Eighteen deputies abstained from voting. Great excitement prevails at Madrid, but no disorders are reported.

BELGIUM.

The Government has introduced a bill in the Chamber of Representatives to extend the suffrage. In Tuesday's sitting of the Chamber the Minister for Foreign Affairs, replying to M. Brasseur, said that, on the 8th ult., M. de Balan, the North German representative at Brussels, came to the Ministry to communicate some observations on the part of his Government relative to the attitude of a portion of the Belgian press, which, he said, might unfavourably affect the friendly sentiments entertained by Germany towards Belgium. The reply given to M. de Balan was that, in accordance with the Belgian Constitution, the press was free in its criticisms, and the Government could not be made responsible for its utterances. The Belgian Government had done its utmost to observe a strict neutrality and avoid any conflict, and the press, by its patriotism, had aided it to do its duty.

GERMANY.

A decree has been issued by the King of Prussia summoning the North German Parliament to assemble at Berlin on Thursday next, the 24th inst. According to the *Provincial Correspondence* the Parliament will be called upon to sanction a credit for the prosecution of the war, and a measure admitting to the North German Confederation such Southern States as have determined to join it.

The result of the elections, as far as known up to the latest advices, shows the strength of the different parties in the Prussian Diet to be about as follows:—Conservatives, 140; Independent Conservatives, 40; Old Liberals, 20; National Liberals, 110; Progressists, 40; Catholics, 40; Poles, 20; Particularists, 10.

AUSTRIA.

A telegram from Vienna states that Prince Gortschakoff's note causes great excitement in political circles in that city. Count Beust has decided upon taking immediate and serious diplomatic steps. An alliance between England, Austria, Italy, and Turkey is much talked about in diplomatic circles, and seriously contemplated and wished for both by Count Beust and Count Andraszky. The Hungarian papers are discussing the demands raised by Russia in reference to the Treaty of 1856. The organs of the Deak party exhort the Government to act with energy, and state that the empire will know how to defend its power and dignity even by force of arms. The organs of the Opposition express their hope for a peaceful solution of the question.

DENMARK.

The French Embassy in Copenhagen has summoned all Frenchmen resident in Denmark, aged from twenty-five to thirty-five years, immediately to return to France, in order to be enrolled in the ranks of the army.

THE UNITED STATES.

The elections already held have returned 128 Republicans and 94 Democrats to Congress. Five States, containing twenty-one districts, have yet to vote. These, it is expected, will return 11 Republicans and 10 Democrats; so that the next House will stand—139 Republicans and 104 Democrats; making the Republican majority 35. Two Liberal Republicans, elected over the regular Republicans in Missouri, are in this classed with the Democrats. The revenue reformers will have a majority in the next House.

Pending the nomination of a Minister to England, the President has determined to appoint Benjamin Moran Chargé-d'Affaires. Mr. Motley will return home.

CHINA.

Advices from China, via Bombay, report further outrages to have occurred at Canton. The execution of the criminals at Tien-Tsin has been postponed.

THE TOTAL RECEIPTS INTO THE EXCHEQUER, from April 1 to Nov. 12, were £37,334,623, against £41,589,063 in the corresponding period of last year. Up to the same date, the expenditure amounted to £41,947,512, of which more than eighteen millions and a quarter was for interest of debt. The balance in the Bank of England, on Saturday last, was £1,510,627.

TWO MEN, named Jarrett and Palmer, were, on Tuesday, charged at the Marylebone Police Court with having broken into the Roman Catholic Chapel known as "Lady of the Rosary," in Homer-row, Marylebone, and stealing articles to the value of £60. The prisoners, who were remanded, narrowly escaped violence at the hands of the indignant Irish residents in the neighbourhood.

THE WAR.

THE FIGHTING NEAR ORLEANS.

This telegram which we published last week notifying fighting at Orleans was true, and it was not true. It was true that the Germans had evacuated Orleans, but it was not true that they had been driven out of the city after heavy fighting. There was fighting near Orleans, but not in Orleans. The series of battles which resulted in the reoccupation of Orleans by the French had their commencement in those encounters in the forest of Marche telegraphed last week. Von der Tann, having doubtless been informed that General Aurelles de Paladine had moved from Paris sent out reconnoitring columns, which ascertained that the French occupied a line extending from the Loire, near Beaujeu, to the forest of Fretival. On the following day the French moved up the Loire, in a formation which showed that they aimed at interposing in greatly superior force between Von der Tann at Orleans and Wittich's corps, or any other troops that might be sent to reinforce him. The Beaujeu corps was to advance on Orleans; but, while the right wing of the French army would stop near Ormes, so as not immediately to threaten Orleans, the centre and left wing, pivoting on the right wing, were to march through Germigny, St. Peravy, Boulay, and Briey, and effect a junction with a cavalry corps which General Pallières was to bring from St. Benoit-sur-Loire towards Cercottes, so closing the road to Artenay, Toury, and the north. To frustrate this scheme, which would have shut his Bavarians in, Von der Tann—who, since the 2nd Prussian Division had been withdrawn from him, as now appears, to make requisitions in the Beaujeu district, had been unable to prosecute further operations from Orleans—moved out of the city and advanced, apparently without exact information of the strength of the French corps, to Coulmiers, where he could either cover Orleans or gain the road to Toury, through St. Peravy. A reconnaissance having shown Von der Tann that it would be imprudent to fight a battle before his army had been restored to its former completeness, he gave orders for a retreat; but, being pressed by the French, had to retire, fighting, and suffered considerable losses in the operation, both of men and *materiel*. The Tours accounts admit that his movement was effected "in perfect order." The German despatches state that in the engagements of the 9th inst. all the French attacks were repulsed with great loss to the assailants, and that it was not till then that the Germans commenced their retrograde movements. The French telegrams variously state the number of Bavarian prisoners at from 600 to 10,000. With reference to the capture of guns by the French, a Versailles telegram states that at noon on Thursday, Nov. 10, a detachment of the Bavarian Ammunition Reserve lost its way, having with it two reserve guns, which fell into the hands of the French. In the course of the fighting on the 9th General Chauzy advanced rapidly on Germigny, where the Germans made a determined resistance, and compelled him to fall back. Meanwhile General Reynal, on the extreme left, marched on St. Peravy la Colombe. There strong Prussian columns arrested his advance, and he fell back. Von der Tann reports his losses in the fighting on the 9th to have been only forty-two officers and 667 men killed and wounded; but this merely applies to the first day's battles, fought in the neighbourhood of Bacon and Coulmiers; while the French estimate their own losses at 20,000, which, the official account states, included both the 9th and the 10th. No doubt, the calculations of the German casualties which have been vended by the Tours papers are grossly exaggerated; but Von der Tann says nothing of his missing, or of the killed and wounded on the 7th, in the combat near St. Laurent-des-Bois, nor of the casualties on the 10th; and we should think that at least 5000 would be a fair reckoning of the number of men lost to the Germans through the victories of Aurelles de Paladine. Von der Tann was subsequently joined by the troops under General Wittich, Prince Albert, and the Duke of Mecklenburg. The estimates of the total strength of this collective corps vary between 60,000 and 70,000, including 4000 cavalry. The troops of the Army of the Loire have been so frequently, or rather so continuously, dislocated—sent to join now General Fierck, now Count Kétry, and even, if we may believe reports from Tours, General Bourbaki in the north—that its effective force cannot be inferred from its nominal strength. It is believed, however, that d'Aurelle had not fewer than 80,000 or 90,000 under him when he manœuvred Von der Tann out of Orleans, and enveloped his detachments in the extension of his wings. It is stated that troops have been sent to General d'Aurelle since the actions of the 9th and 10th, from Tours, Nevers, and other places; and it is suggested that he is probably now waiting for reinforcements from Le Mans, which is the head-quarters of General Fierck, and from the south of the Loire. On the other hand, it is supposed that, having drawn the division of Wittich and the Duke of Mecklenburg to a position out of the way, he is detaining them there with a minimum force, while the real move is being made by General Fierck to Paris through Chartres.

M. Gambetta has been to Orleans to congratulate the Army of Loire on the result of the battles of the 9th and 10th inst. He tells the soldiers that they have given France her first consolation, her first ray of hope. They have retaken Orleans with the ardour of old troops accustomed to conquer. They are on the road to Paris, and must not forget that she awaits them. Their honour is staked upon their success in loosening the grasp of the "barbarians who threaten her with fire and pillage."

THE ARMIES IN PARIS.

As already stated, General Trochu has divided the troops under his orders into three armies. The first army is to be commanded by General Thomas, and is to consist of 266 battalions of Sedentary National Guard, a legion of artillery, and a body of cavalry. The second army, to be commanded by General Ducrot, is to consist of three corps, the first commanded by General Kuoy, the second by General Renault, and the third by General d'Exea. The first two corps contain three divisions of infantry each, the third corps consists of two divisions of infantry and one division of cavalry. We presume that this army consists of the greater part of the regular troops, who number, it is now asserted, 120,000 men. The third army, consisting presumably chiefly of sailors and marines, is to consist of seventeen brigades, formed into seven divisions of infantry and one of cavalry. This army is to be under the command of General Trochu himself. The Mobiles are said now to amount to 121,000 men. It is believed that this army is to undertake the defence of the forts and operations in their neighbourhood. The second army is destined chiefly for sorties in force, or grand effort to break through the Prussian army; and the first army is to garrison the enceinte. It is asserted that there are now equipped 1000 field-pieces of the latest pattern. This number is large; but the proportion for 100,000 men is from 2000 to 3000 guns. So it is clear that even now, after all his efforts, General Trochu is insufficiently provided with field artillery. The Sedentary National Guard amounts to 300,000 men, and the whole body is to be mobilised, the call for volunteers not having been responded to as fully as was wished.

THE SIEGE OF PARIS.

The telegrams from Versailles up to Thursday report that all is quiet before Paris; but a number of signs combine to show that all will not be quiet for long. The besiegers receive information that a sortie on a grand scale is in preparation; the letters received from Paris by balloon confirm the statement; and the pressure of the blockade on the resources of the besieged assures us that the movement cannot be long delayed. The French are reported to have armed the new redoubt which they have recently constructed on the heights above Villejuif with twenty-two pieces of heavy artillery, and to have begun the construction of another redoubt between Villejuif and Vitry—to the eastward of the first work, and apparently protecting the right flank of Fort Ivry. The ground in front of the two redoubts is said to be full of trenches and rifle-pits; "the whole being a facsimile of Todtoben's cele-

brated defences of Sebastopol." Count Bismarck's plan of reducing the capital by a blockade, without a bombardment, is making way in the besieging army, and finds much favour. The investment has now been maintained so long—over eight weeks—and the provisions of Paris, it is argued, must be so far exhausted, that little in point of time would be gained by a bombardment. The Germans can wait as well as the French. While on duty they suffer from exposure, as do the defenders of the city. But the arrival of reinforcements makes the duty lighter, and off duty the men have nothing to complain of. The French population for some twenty miles round Paris deserted all the villages and châteaux within that radius. The result is that the German Generals have excellent shelter for the main body of their troops. Their outer posts occupy the houses in those districts, and telegraphic communication has been established between each village. The advanced and fore posts, if not always under shelter, are near it, and within signalling distance of the reserves. They have temporary wooden barracks wherever these would not present an object for the enemy's fire. Provisions are abundant, although, from the manner in which they are raised, a regular supply of the same kind of food is not to be

left it as a testament to my children," writes a young officer to his sister, who is in charge of his motherless sons, "never to think I am at peace till the land which they will take from us is restored. Yes; Alsace will be our bond of union. At this word all feuds must cease and factions die out." These may be the passionate words of the hour. But border feuds and boundary questions live long. The sea washed away a good deal of the ill-blood which existed between France and England after 1815. But suppose we had reoccupied Calais? Germany may fortify her frontier; but, unless France ceases to be a nation of more than 30,000,000 of a very war-loving people, the fortresses will not secure peace. Will Belgium be an effectual barrier to French attacks if the French army be ready to make them, and not my words; they are but the rendering of the ideas of a man of the world who thinks he is the cleverest man in it.

A COINMEMORATION AT MENTANA.

AT Mentana, on Nov. 3, three years ago, the French troops, commanded by General de Failly, attacked Garibaldi and his followers, and the *merveilles* of the chassepots retarded the fall of the temporal power of the Pope. In returning from their glorious expedition, the sons of the Grand Nation found at the gates of Rome the devout followers of the Pope, and of the legitimate ex-kings and dukes gathered in this city, who saluted them with enthusiastic acclamations, proclaiming those soldiers the worthy defenders of the holy cause of throne and altar. Who would then have dared to predict that the much-vaunted *merveilles* of the chassepots would be their first, and perchance their last, or that General Garibaldi would, three years later, be summoned to command those very soldiers who had aimed their chassepots at him. General Garibaldi had beaten the Papal Zouaves and troops at Monte Rotondo. He had only 5000 men. Could they be called soldiers? Hardly. Many of them had not even their red shirts. Their guns were old, their ammunition was scarce. They had two small pieces of artillery taken from the Papal troops at Monte Rotondo. They had not had a morsel of bread for four-and-twenty hours. They attacked the Papal troops, some 6000 men, at Mentana. The fighting lasted some two hours. The Papal regiments did terrible work, but the Garibaldians fought bravely; they charged the enemy several times at the point of the bayonet, and dislodged him from the positions he held. The cry of victory was in every mouth when the French troops appeared on the top of the road commanding Mentana. Where had they come from? Had not the French evacuated Rome many months before? The French artillery came first into action, Garibaldi's two pieces answering as well as they possibly could to the enemy's fire. Then came the chassepots and their *merveilles*. Mentana was lost. It was to commemorate this sad and yet glorious event that many thousands of Romans left early this morning for Mentana. All the houses in the little village were decorated with black hangings. The long processions with veiled flags proceeded to Vigna Santucci, where the action was fiercest. Many a mother and sister, with tears in their eyes, laid wreaths of flowers on that free soil which covered the bones of their beloved ones. The scene was really touching. The Garibaldians who had taken part in the fight were present. Their faces got paler and paler as they approached the spot where first they perceived that they were betrayed. Speeches were made and poems were read; but the grandest of all things was the fact that the flag of a free Italy waved at last on that spot where so many generous youths had fallen the victims of French chassepots.

SAD DOUBLE SUICIDE.—Last Saturday morning the bodies of a young man and woman were discovered dead in a bed-room at the Warwick Tavern, Redhill. The man arrived at the hotel about a week ago, and he took a sitting-room and a bed-room for himself and his wife. The woman came the same evening, and they paid a week in advance, saying that they expected some luggage, which, however, did not arrive. Shortly before nine o'clock Mr. Easton, the landlord, knocked at the door and received no reply; and, on the room being entered, the deceased were seen lying side by side in their night-clothes, life being quite extinct. A paper was found on which was written that they had agreed to poison themselves, and two empty phials which had contained cyanide of potassium were discovered in the room. There were a few books in the bed-room, in one of which—a Church service—was written, "Maria Mason, the gift of her cousin." At the inquest, on Wednesday, it was proved that the poison which had been used was procured at the shop of a chemist in the neighbourhood. Both deceased had been in service at the White Horse, at Lee, in Kent, and their masters had for some time been as such as to indicate that they were not quite right in their mind. The jury returned a verdict of "Temporary insanity."

PASTORAL BY CARDINAL CULLEN.—Cardinal Cullen has issued a pastoral on the Feast of St. Lawrence. After a biography of the "great prelate," his Eminence attacks the Voltairians of the Continent, and then complains that "a press calling itself national or Irish not unfrequently assails religion and its ministers, and defends Fenianism, Freemasonry, and secret societies, the bane and scourge of every country where they take root." Finally, he bids his flock pray for the Pontiff, and alludes to the "evils of a mixed system of education" and the "designs of Dr. Whately and others, now unmasked." As to the Catholic University, his Eminence says:—"Catholics have a right to demand that an institution so long supported by our own unaided efforts should receive a meet endowment from the public resources of the kingdom. We should not cease to urge this measure on the Legislature, resting assured that the intolerant bigotry and ignorance which have hitherto opposed our claims must very soon yield before the justness of our demands, and the growing liberality of our statesmen, who in the Church and Land Acts have shown a determination to do justice to Ireland. Our exertions and our petitions should not cease until we shall have a Catholic University, Catholic middle schools, and Catholic primary schools, all receiving assistance from the public funds of the country."

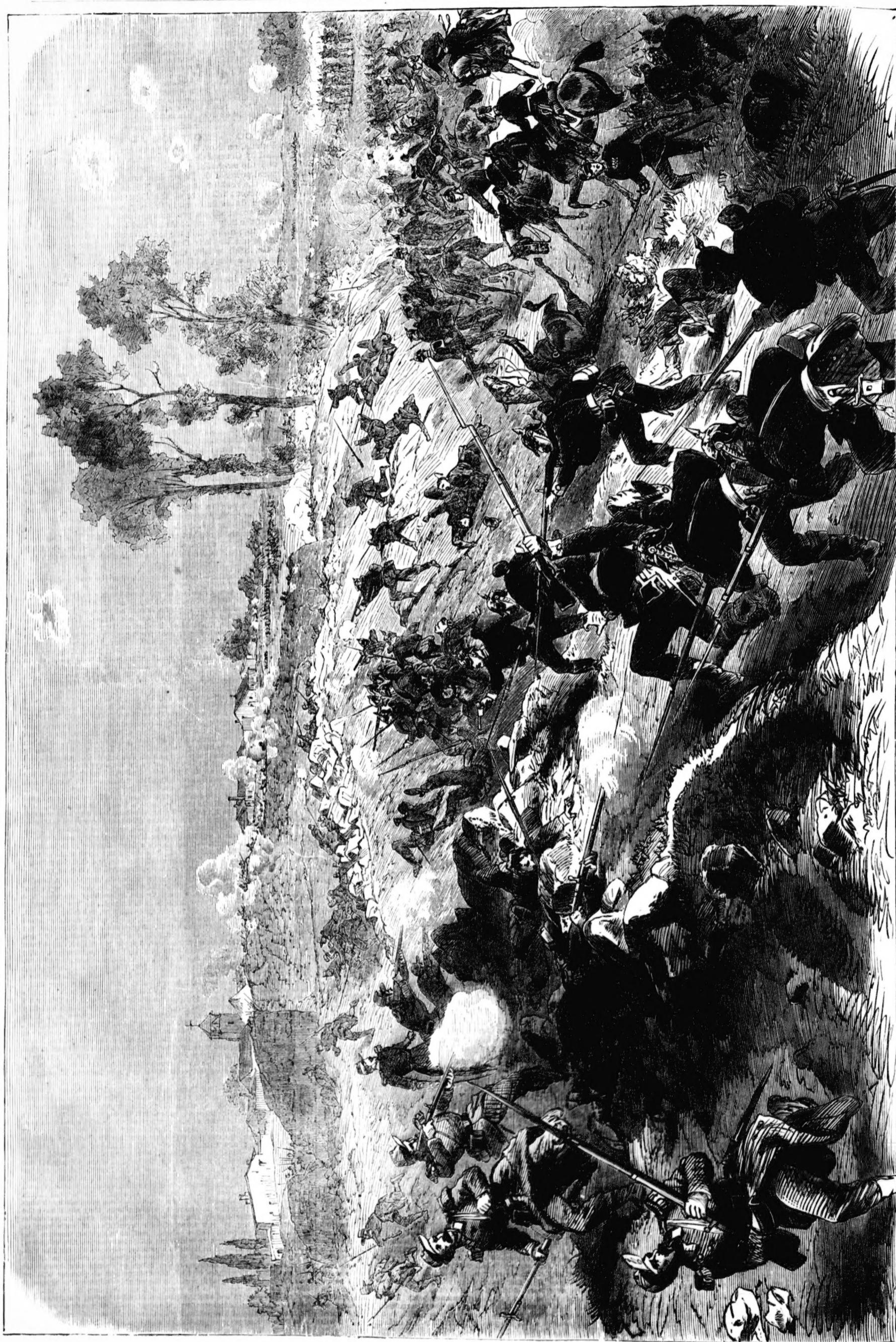
THE PUBLIC HEALTH.—Last week the aggregate mortality in London and nineteen other large towns of the United Kingdom was in the ratio of 24 deaths annually to every 1000 of the present estimated population. The rate varied from 15 in Portsmouth to 36 in Liverpool. In the metropolis 2216 births and 1468 deaths were registered—the former having been 13, and the latter 27, below the estimated average. Zymotic diseases caused 365 deaths—including 40 from smallpox, 19 from measles, 150 from scarlet fever, 4 from diphtheria, 10 from croup, 20 from whooping-cough, 13 from typhus, 19 from enteric (or typhoid) fever, 1 from relapsing fever, 7 from simple continued fever, 12 from erysipelas, and 13 from diarrhoea. The scarlet fever epidemic has exhibited signs of abatement during the last four weeks, the deaths having been 192, 167, 174, and 150. Forty-eight deaths resulted from violence; of these 43 were accidental, including 25 by fractures, 7 by burns or scalds, 3 by drowning. Five children were suffocated. Seven fatal accidents caused by horses or vehicles in the streets were returned. The mean temperature during the week was 59° or 5° below that of the corresponding week in fifty years. Attention is called by the Registrar-General to the fact that smallpox has not been so fatal in London since the early part of 1868 as during the last three weeks; in fact, so large a number as 40 fatal cases has not been recorded in any week since April, 1867. More than half the deaths from this cause last week occurred in the east districts; and the extent to which the disease is diffused in that locality may be gathered from this, that twelve out of the twenty-seven sub-districts forming the eastern group contributed fatal cases. In the Spitalfields sub-district of Whitechapel, out of 12 deaths from all causes, 4 were from smallpox.

UNJUST DEALERS.—That large and respectable body of men, the dishonest traders, will probably read with interest the fourth report of the Standards Commission, which contains one or two recommendations directly affecting their interests. The Commissioners recommend that, in cases of a second conviction of offences against the Weights and Measures Laws "with fraudulent intent," the offender should be liable to a fine or "to imprisonment not exceeding two months," as the Justices may determine; and that in all cases of conviction for fraudulent intent, or of culpable negligence, the magistrates should take the necessary steps for publishing the name, place of abode, and business, offence, and sentence of each person convicted, in one or more of the local newspapers. This will touch up several rascally grocers, although the publication would be more effectual if it were printed in conspicuous letters on their shop fronts. It is also recommended that in all cases where stated quantities of any articles of food are made up in bags or parcels ready for sale in shops or public places, they shall have the weight or measure legibly marked upon them, and that inspectors be empowered to require any three of each description of such bags or parcels to be produced before them, and to weigh or measure the same, and if found unjust, to seize them and inform against the offenders, who, on conviction, shall be liable to a penalty. Grocers will not like this, as it will cut off a considerable profit made by the lower middle out of the lower classes; but, unless steps are also taken to ensure punishment for adulteration of all articles of food, the enterprising shopkeeper will get over the little difficulty with regard to the weights and measures by simply adding a little more sand to his sugar or flour-sweepings to his tea. It will be necessary to consider the question of adulteration simultaneously with that of weights and measures, if any effectual steps are to be taken for the protection of the public, more especially the poor, from the harpies who have so long preyed upon them with impunity.—*Pall Mall Gazette*.

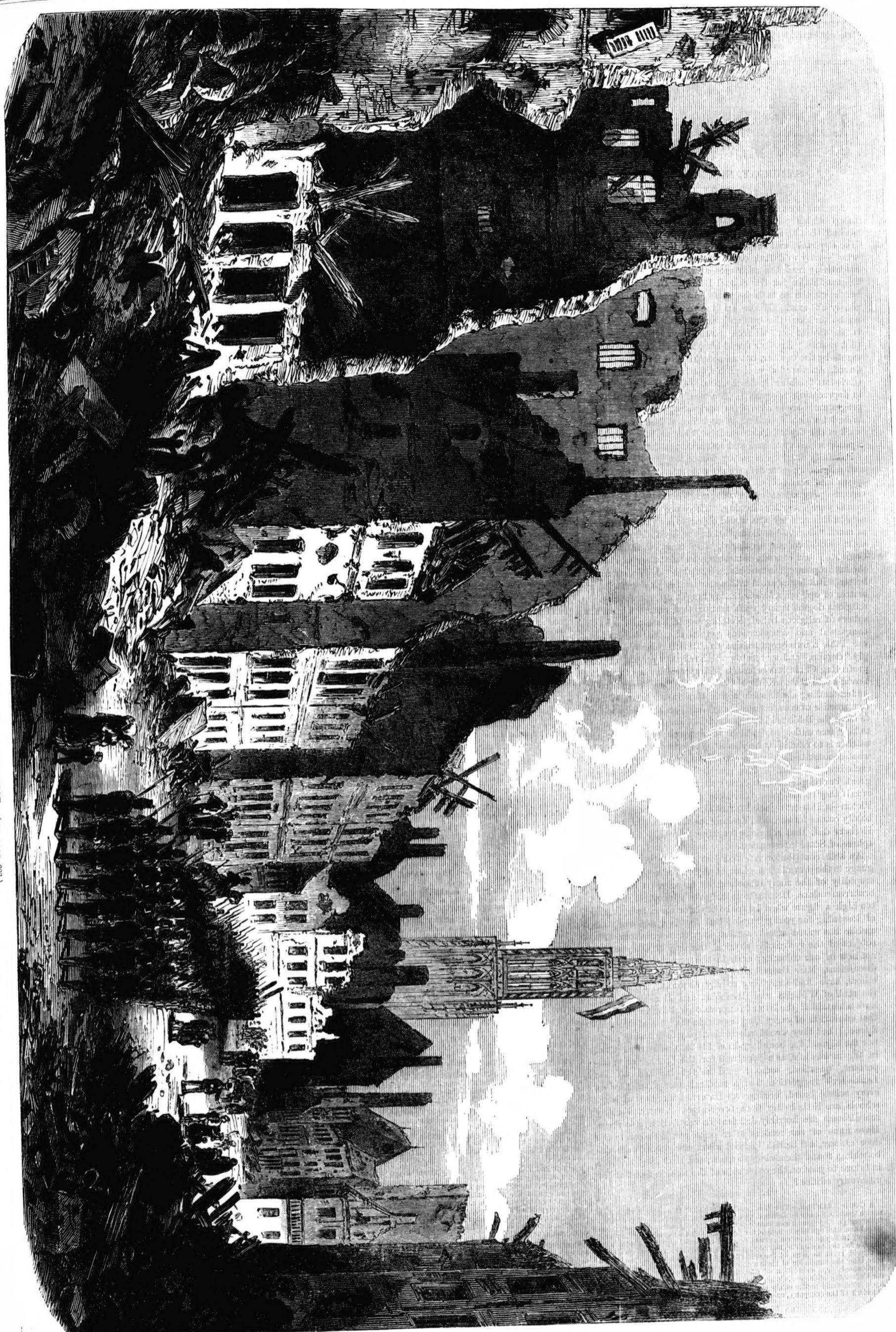
FEELING IN FRANCE.

Dr. Russell, the *Times'* special correspondent at Versailles, in a letter dated the 11th inst., says:—

Immortal hate will, I fear, be the miserable legacy of this war to France. The animosity which has long existed between the races is almost—nay, quite—diabolical now on the part of the French towards the Germans; and is only abated in the case of the Germans to the French when the strife is over and the field is left to their undisputed control. There is no use in arguing with angry—very angry—men; no use in asking them to regard the bearings of their acts on the opinion of the world. The Germans regard France-Tireurs as assassins; the French esteem them as heroes. The Germans will burn towns wherever they find France-Tireurs; the French will send them out to shoot and destroy wherever they can. I am a believer in the power of what is called persecution. Even in religious controversies long continued rigorous persecution has stamped out the life of churches. But the intense agony and fury of the strife before the conqueror can get his foot on the body of his enemy in such a fight as that between Germany and France are inconceivable, and cannot be appeased by any sermons. He must be a sanguine German who believes that peace will be for ever secured by the possession of the Vosges and of certain points in Lorraine. "I will



THE WAR: THE PRUSSIAN GUARDS IN THE BATTLE OF ST. PRIVAT (GRAVELOTTE) ON AUGUST 18.—(SEE PAGE 323.)



THE WAR: THE STEINSTRASSE, STRASBOURG, AFTER THE SIEGE.—(SEE PAGE 323.)

REDUCED POSTAL TARIFF.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION TO THE ILLUSTRATED TIMES.
Three Months .. 3s. 10d. | Six Months .. 7s. 7d. | Twelve Months .. 15s. 2d.
(In all cases to be Paid in Advance.)



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 1870.

THE SCHOOL BOARDS.

A DISTINGUISHED artist's criticism upon the pretensions of many of his pupils—"one says he colours like Titian; a second, that he shades like Rembrandt; a third, that he poses like Raphael; and they all draw like the Beelzebub knows who"—may well have occurred to some of those who have attentively read the addresses of the enormous majority of the candidates for the School Boards. In plain truth, the battle of the sects is being fought over again as vigorously as ever. Masks on the combatants' faces, but no buttons on the rapiers, except sham buttons. One is in favour of a free and open Bible—whatever that means. Another would have the Bible read with comments by the teacher, but no catechism or formularies introduced. Another dodges the Bible, but would have unsectarian Christian teaching insisted upon. But all of these concur in deprecating "dogma." The result is that the different programmes are as absurd as that advertisement of a house to be let which described it as being within five minutes' walk of the Crystal Palace and the Bank, and furnished with a pump which gave hard and soft water at the same time.

Painfully anxious as we are to see the people educated, and religiously educated, we do not intend to thrust ourselves into this *mélée*. But it may be harmless to observe that the programme of "no dogma," honestly interpreted, means purely secular teaching. There are probably no persons in this country who would object to see children taught as much "dogma" as is implied in the Lord's Prayer. The most hard-headed secularist, the most anti-Theistical Comist, would concede something to what they would call the anthropomorphic tendencies of childhood. So much the better. But let us avoid talking nonsense. A dogma is any matter of opinion *whatever* that is taught upon authority. A religious dogma is any such matter that comes within the sphere of religious belief. Nothing would be more easy to a competent and conscientious person than to select from the Bible a number of lessons which neither contain nor imply "dogma," and concerning which religious people, whether professing Christians or not, would agree: the Bishop of St. David's and Baboo Keshub Chunder Sen would come to an understanding about such a selection in an hour, without compromise of conscience. Every Christian naturally wishes to have the Bible read in the schools. But if the reading is to be "free and open," which we suppose means that the teacher is to read what he pleases—still more if he is to make what comments he pleases—it is mere hypocrisy to talk of excluding "dogma." The practical difficulty here is not great, but people may, at least, "clear their minds of cant;" even if they cannot accept the dicta of men like the Rev. J. A. Picton—a Dissenting minister at Hackney, we believe—who boldly comes forward and declares, as the Hon. Mr. Auberon Herbert did, that religious teaching is totally beyond the sphere of State intervention.

An able contributor referred last week in vigorous language to the prevailing neglect of physical education and the stupidity of the many schoolmasters in regard to what the brain can endure. It seems to us that even our contributor fixed too high a figure when he spoke of six or seven hours a day of lessening for young people; but that is a minor matter, and he has raised afresh a most important question. The subject of the systematic physical training of the young is not new in our columns; and, in the recent School-Board discussions, Miss Garrett, Dr. Lankester, and one or two others, have had something to say about it. Thinkers of the rank of Wilhelm von Humboldt and Herbert Spencer have maintained (the latter in express opposition to Mr. Mill) that education of every kind is outside the pale of State influence; but they would admit that physical training was not far beyond the boundary-line. Its turn will come. And, in the meanwhile, as a prior, and for the present more important, question, some regard might be had to Dr. Lankester's suggestion that a medical man should be on every school board, because an immense number of large schools are little better than fever-nests. That too many schoolrooms are horribly deficient in ventilation is certain. Have none of our readers, after once passing close to the door of, say, a "British" school when the pupils were debouching, found themselves so nauseated that they resolved in future to pass on the other side of the road in front of the unsavoury edifice?

A GOOD EXAMPLE.—The London Clothworkers' Company have given notice that they have established two prizes of £50 each, to be competed for every year by young men between the ages of eighteen and twenty-one who have distinguished themselves by their talents, good conduct, and industry in any professional, scientific, or commercial pursuits. Candidates eligible for the same must not have passed the age of twenty-one on Jan. 1 next, and must be sons of freemen of the company, or sons of freewomen born after the admission of their mother to the freedom, and whose father is deceased. An exhibition of £50, tenable by freemen or liverymen, at the University of Oxford, Cambridge, or London, has also been established. Applications and testimonials should be forwarded to Mr. Owen Roberts, the clerk of the company, on or before Dec. 1 next, at the hall, in Mincing-lane.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY has been recommended by his medical advisers to spend the winter in Italy, in order that his recovery, which has continued without interruption, may not run the risk of retardation by the cold weather. His Grace is expected to leave England as soon as the Veysey case is ended, and proceed to San Remo.

M. GLADSTONE left London last Saturday for Hawarden Castle, Flintshire; but Mrs. Gladstone remains in town. Earl De Grey also left to an for Studley Royal, his seat in Yorkshire; and Viscount Halifax for Hockleton Hall, Yorkshire. Earl Granville had gone to Walmer Castle, but returned to town on Tuesday, and will remain in London during the present diplomatic crisis. The Earl of Kimberley has gone to his seat in Norfolk.

THE RANK OF FIELD MARSHAL OF RUSSIA has been conferred upon Prince Frederick Charles, as well as upon the Crown Prince.

SIR MINTO FARQUHAR, BART., was adjudicated a bankrupt on Wednesday.

THE HEALTH OF BISHOP SUMNER, the ex-Bishop of Winchester, gives cause for anxiety amongst his Lordship's relatives and friends.

MR. PLANCHE is writing a poem on the siege of Calais by Edward III.

MR. THOMAS HUGHES, M.P., is no longer a candidate for the Westminster District School Board. The hon. member has joined the committee of Mr. George Potter.

VICE-CHANCELLOR STUART on Tuesday gave judgment in the suit instituted by the assignee in the bankruptcy of the late Lord Arthur Clinton against two money-lenders, named Dicker and Yates. His Honour held that the plaintiff was clearly entitled to the relief which he sought. The charges for discount made by the defendants were exorbitant and unconscionable. The plaintiff must make good to them, with interest at five per cent, all moneys actually advanced to Lord Arthur Clinton, or to his brother, Lord Albert. Each party to pay their own costs.

MR. AYRTON, M.P., in presiding at a lecture by Dr. L. Es, last Saturday evening, expressed his sense of the importance of the temperance question, and his belief that it would be dealt with by the Government in the approaching Session. He hoped that one of the provisions of the measure would prohibit the use of public-houses at elections.

MR. FREDERICK MYERS, author of "St. Paul, and other Poems," is engaged on a "History of French Literature," similar in scope and aim to M. Taine's book on "English Literature."

CERTAIN BRITISH PRISONERS taken in a balloon near Verdun are to be sent to a Prussian fortress and tried by court-martial, on a charge of acting as spies, it is believed.

ALFRED SMITH, better known as one of the "Fritz Brothers," a gymnast, fell from a trapeze while performing at Birmingham, last Saturday, and was so severely injured that he died on Monday morning.

MR. ODO RUSSELL, Assistant Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, has left England for the Prussian head-quarters at Versailles.

SIR COLMAN O'LOGHLEN has resigned the office of Judge Advocate-General.

COUNT WALDERSEE, it seems, was not shot at Bourget while receiving the sword of a French officer who had surrendered. He was killed by a shell while entering the village.

MR. SCHNEIDER has sold his property at Le Creuzot to an American company, and the flag of the United States is now hoisted over the whole establishment.

MR. TREVELYAN, M.P., has lately received anonymous letters of an offensive character, written apparently by persons of education and conversant with military details. These missives have now begun to contain very significant threats of personal violence.

APPLICATION is intended to be made to Parliament next Session for power to construct a new line of railway from Windor to Aldershot.

THE FRENCH MAIL-STEAMER PEREIRE has arrived at Havre from New York with 7000 barrels of powder, one million cartouches, 60,000 rifles, thirty cannon, and one mitrailleuse.

AN ASTRONOMER of some note in Spain predicts that the coming winter will be the coldest since that of 1829, and that the thermometer will during several successive days sink to 10 deg. below zero (Reaumur).

THE COTTON-SPINNING MILL OF MESSRS. DAVID WHITEHEAD AND SONS, Rawtenstall, was on Monday totally destroyed by fire. The damage is roughly estimated at £20,000, while 300 workpeople have been thrown out of employment. The fire is supposed to have originated in the card-room, situated in the upper story of the building.

THE BANK OF ENGLAND have given notice that applications for the transmission of dividend warrants payable in January, 1871, by post should be deposited at the Bank on or before Dec. 1 next. Forms may be obtained at the Bank or at any money-order office.

LADY PIGOTT, wife of Sir Robert Pigott, Bart., of Branches Park, Newmarket, has arrived at Metz, where her services have been gratefully accepted by the gentlemen on the medical staff. She at once commenced active duties among the sick and wounded. Lady Pigott is an excellent linguist; her aid is therefore doubly valuable.

HERR GUTTERBOCK, one of the leading bankers of Berlin, has been arrested on a charge of high treason, for subscribing to the French war loan. The punishment, if he is found guilty, is ten years' imprisonment. Another banker, Saint Goar, of Frankfort, has also been arrested for dealing in the French war loan.

MARSHAL CANROBERT, with his Staff, left Cassel last Saturday for Stuttgart. Marshal Lebeuf will shortly depart for Bonn. Marshal Bazaine and his wife will take up their residence at Aix-la-Chapelle. The King's special permission has been obtained for all these movements.

THE GERMAN MANUFACTURERS are beginning to replace their workmen absent on military service by French prisoners, who are furnished by the Government and paid for their work.

THE EDUCATION ACT has been printed in greater numbers than any previous Act of Parliament. More than 20,000 copies have been sold over Messrs. Spottiswoode's counter, irrespective of wholesale orders from all parts of the country.

AMONG THE REGIMENTAL FLAGS captured by the Germans at Metz, which are now deposited in the arsenal at Berlin, are several bearing the inscriptions of Marengo, Wagram, Lützen, and Solferino.

THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY, in a recent letter to the Patriarch of Constantinople, declared that the Church of England does not sanction prayers for the dead. This dictum has been broadly disputed in certain quarters; and now the York branch of the English Church Union has requested the council of that association to forward to the head-quarters of the Greek Church a protest against the Primate's repudiation of the doctrine of purgatory.

THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT has issued a circular to the returning officers of the various metropolitan districts with reference to the election of the London School Board, on the 29th inst. It contains several instructions with the view of securing uniformity in the decisions of those who will preside at the polling places.

A SHOCKING ACCIDENT FROM AN ESCAPE OF GAS took place at Leeds on Monday. The gas from the main escaped through a drain into two small houses in Moon-crescent, Dewsbury-road, and in one of them caused the death of an old woman named Wood, and her daughter, aged twenty, who were in bed at the time. In the other house, two children, aged respectively six and four, were suffocated.

A CHARGE OF WILFUL MURDER was on Tuesday investigated at Marlborough-street. The prisoner, one Jeary, a shoemaker, quarrelled with another of the trade, named Kennoch, and in the result stabbed him to death. Jeary was committed for trial.

EDWARD WILDMAN, the proprietor of a portable theatre, and six of his company, were summoned before the Brentford magistrates, on Saturday, for taking part in a stage play in an unlicensed building at Hounslow. Wildman said he could not get a license for an erection which was simply supported on wheels, and he did not think such a structure came within the meaning of the Act. The magistrates inflicted the nominal fine of 1s. and costs.

A WOUNDED SOLDIER who recently passed through Berlin excited general attention, being a woman. She is twenty-four years of age, was carefully educated, but always showed a preference for masculine dress and activity. She passed the Ensign's examination, and, with good recommendations, entered the army under the name of Weiss. She distinguished herself by the recovery of a Prussian standard taken by the enemy, and was presented with the iron cross. She has received four shot wounds, and for recovery has gone home to Tilsit. An East Prussian paper vouches for the accuracy of these statements.

CUSTOMS REFORM.—We understand that considerable administrative reforms are about to be introduced into the Customs. The statistical department will be completely reorganised; and the new arrangements will enable the Government to suppress the branch of the department which has hitherto furnished the reports of the exports and imports, thus dispensing with the services of some fifty clerks. The large reserve funds at the disposal of the Customs will enable these savings to be effected without any cost to the public or any disregard of private interests.—*Observer.*

THE LOUNGER.

The sub-editors of our metropolitan daily papers every morning, Saturday excepted, cursorily and rapidly throw an experienced eye over the provincial papers which have come to hand, to ascertain whether there be any matter in them—speeches, lectures, paragraphs, &c., worthy of being excerpted for the purpose of being inserted in their own papers. Now, in this rapid survey it must be that occasionally valuable matter escapes the sub-editor's eye, however practised; and for this he is not to be blamed. But I have often fancied that some of these sub-editors lack judgment, or have their prejudices; for, certainly, I often discover valuable matter in the shape of speeches, lectures, news, &c., in the provincial papers which is not reprinted, or even noticed, in the metropolitan press; whilst, on the other hand, much wishy-washy stuff, imported simply, as it would seem, because some official or man with a handle to his name uttered it. I will give you two instances to the point. At Brighton lately Mr. White, the member, delivered a lecture on Italy. So valuable did I deem this lecture that I cut it out of the Brighton paper, and stuck it in my selectest scrap-book as a repertory of facts not easily attainable elsewhere—contemporary history, in short, which of all things it is most difficult to get at. But I saw no notice of this lecture in the London papers. This is one instance of sub-editorial neglect, want of judgment, or prejudice, or, perhaps, subservience to the flunkeyism of the time; for certainly if a lecture on modern Italy were to be delivered by a Lord, however commonplace or even foolish it might be, it would have been reproduced, in a more or less abridged form, in our London papers. Here is another instance:—On Tuesday, last week, at the Stirling School of Arts, that accomplished gentleman Sir William Stirling Maxwell, better known—at least, in Scotland—as Stirling of Keir, delivered a well-timed, admirable lecture on the Second French Empire. Think of that! A lecture just now on such a subject, by such a man! But I have not seen this lecture, in any abridged form, nor any notice of it (except a short one in the *Pall Mall Gazette*), in any of the London papers. Knowing Sir William by repute, when I came to learn that he had been lecturing on this subject, I tramped at once to the *Scotsman* office, in Fleet-street, for a copy, knowing well that the *Scotsman* would be sure to have the lecture in its columns, and well reported; and this, too, having carefully read it, I laid aside to be preserved. Here, again, we have a piece of valuable contemporary history, got up with great care and honesty. If I wanted a succinct history of the First Empire I could get it without leaving my study; but to get a history of the Second Empire I must go to a library, and spend half a day in rummaging half a dozen or more volumes. Nothing could be better-timed than this history, for there are many of our fellow-countrymen and women who still sympathise with the Emperor. Nay, I am told that Wilhelmshöhe is flooded with letters of condolence from England. Would that these ignorant people, who know nothing of the inner life, or rather the inner death, of the Second Empire would read this lecture! How ruthlessly Sir William blows away the dazzling but meretricious glory which so long concealed this huge fraud! But would the perusal of this lecture destroy the illusion of these aristocratic people? Doubtful, that, I should say. They have drunk the Circean cup, and now they would worship an *unveiled* prophet of Khorassan. But, perhaps, some of my readers may suppose that Sir William is a Radical, and, if they are Conservatives, may say "Oh, it's only some Radical fellow!" Upon this an anecdote:—Some years ago, about 1858, Mr. William Stirling, now Sir William Stirling-Maxwell, put the question to Lord Palmerston, in the House of Commons, "whether it was true that our august ally, Louis Napoleon, had ordered the bequest made by his uncle to Cauillon, who attempted the life of the Duke of Wellington when in Paris in 1815, to be paid, or not?" What Palmerston's answer was I do not recollect; but that is no matter. At one of Lord Palmerston's soirees a certain Liberal Marquis was heard to say that the question was put by a low Radical fellow. Whereupon, one of the company assured the Marquis that Mr. Stirling was not a low Radical, but a literary Conservative, who had inherited quite £30,000 a year in land. And this is so. And, moreover, Sir William is not at all the man to take up such a subject upon mere vague rumour. He is a gentleman of high culture, much given to literary pursuits, and the author of several excellent works—"The Cloister Life of the Emperor Charles the Fifth," &c.—a man, indeed, very unlikely to ask a question of the sort in the House of Commons upon insufficient grounds. The truth is, Sir William knew that the money had been paid to Cauillon by Louis Napoleon's order.

A shrewd friend of mine suggested to me that Bismarck had a special object in lodging the ex-Emperor in a grand palace and surrounding him with luxuries and not a little state; and I dare say Bismarck had an object in thus treating the ex-Emperor. Does the great Chancellor do, or even say, anything without an object? My friend says that Bismarck's object is to make the ex-Emperor unpopular and contemptible throughout France, and all this state and luxury must have, one would think, that effect. "This fellow, who has ruined France," the French would naturally say, "look how he is living in luxury whilst we are starving, living in luxurious ease whilst we are labouring in peril of our lives to undo the mischief which he has caused." Had Bismarck, my friend adds, closely confined his prisoner in a gao, and set over him another Hudson Lowe, if another Hudson Lowe could be found, there might have been a revulsion in his favour, and conspiracy to get him restored. My friend thinks that if Castlereagh had after the Battle of Waterloo given Napoleon I. one of our Royal palaces and pampered him with state and luxury instead of sending him to St. Helena and setting over him Sir Hudson Lowe to tease his heart out, and thus exciting all over France compassion and longing for revenge, the fascination of his name might have soon died out. And there may be something plausible in the notion; at all events, it is, I think, original.

The Russian news received this week caused a sad panic on the Stock Exchange; and while considering that effect and its cause it came to my recollection that I had lately seen in Shaftesbury's "Characteristics" an account of the origin of the word panic, which I thought would be interesting to your readers. "We read in history," says the author, "that Pan (classical god or demi-god), when he accompanied Bacchus in an expedition to the Indies, found means to strike terror through a host of enemies by the help of a small company, whose clamours he managed to good advantage among the echoing rocks and caverns of a woody vale," &c. These clamours echoing and re-echoing, "raised such a horror in the enemy, that, in this state of their imagination, helped them to hear voices (articulate voices), and doubtless to see forms which were more than human; whilst the uncertainty of what they feared made their fear greater, and spread it faster by implicit looks than any narrative could convey it. And this is what in after times men call a panic." Good! And to this day panics, if we well consider, arise in much the same way.

A book lately reached me so specially in my province, and so exceedingly useful, that I ought to have noticed it before. It is "Acland's Imperial Book," a new edition, bringing the polls down to June 1, 1870. It contains all the polls from 1832 to the above date. Before I got the first edition of this little book I often had to turn over a dozen or more volumes to get information wished for; but here I can get it in a minute. Almost every week in the year I have to consult this valuable book.

Englishmen, and especially English newspapers, as I believe I have before had occasion to remark, are much given to making merry over the ignorance often displayed by French and other Continental journalists regarding British persons, names, and affairs; but it seems to me that some people among

ourselves would do well to make a few inquiries concerning foreign personages of note before they commit themselves to treating of them in print. For instance, can anyone tell me when the Duke of Leuchtenberg became a candidate for the Spanish Throne, how his candidature helped to bring about the existing war between France and Germany, and—if there be a Duke of Leuchtenberg—what power of controlling his actions the King of Prussia possesses? A correspondent of the *Standard* has discovered a Duke of Leuchtenberg, and all these facts concerning him; and perhaps said correspondent, or the editor of your contemporary—who, having published the correspondent's letter, ought to know that the facts it states and the person it names are real—will kindly enlighten the world on the points referred to. I have read of a Duke of Leuchtenberg, who was better known as Eugène Beauharnais; but he died at Munich in 1824. There are still Princes and Princesses of Leuchtenberg, who, I suppose, represent the Beauharnais family; but they are members of the Imperial house of Romanoff, and subjects of the Czar of Russia, not of King William of Prussia, who, consequently, has no control over them. Like every one else, I have heard of a German candidate for the Spanish throne, whose candidature had something to do with the pretext upon which war was declared by France; but his name and designation, as the world has hitherto supposed, were Prince Leopold of Hohenzollern-Sigmaringen. But perhaps the *Standard* and its correspondent know better. Then I should also like to know, being curious in such matters, who Prince Humboldt is, who is said by a correspondent of the *Pall Mall Gazette*, writing from St. Sebastian, to have had something to do with persuading the Duke of Aosta to accept the aforesaid Spanish Crown. The compiler of the *Almanac de Gotha* is silent as to such a person, though he does say something about a Prince Humbert of Italy, who is possibly the gentleman intended. Of course I know of a Humboldt who was a Prince among men; but he has passed away, and, even if alive, would care little, I fancy, to be ranked among princelings. I don't want to be censorious, for I know—none better—that slips will occur in hurried composition; but, really, journalists ought to "cram" before writing about foreigners, lest they fall, as these writers do, into the very sort of blunders they laugh at in others. Besides, these mistakes are apt to mislead ill-informed persons, and for that reason, if for no other, are to be deprecated. For example, might not a reader of the *Standard*, who, believing, on the authority of the letter referred to, that the Duke of Leuchtenberg had been a candidate for the Spanish throne, and knowing that the brother of Queen Hortense bore that title, have been sadly puzzled to understand why Louis Napoleon should have so strenuously objected to the election of his own uncle's descendant?

I hope I am not as those Prussians, of a facetiously-cruel disposition; but really a leaf might be taken out of their book in the way of preventing railway "accidents"—which are generally not accidents at all. I have reckoned up, since about the 5th inst., not less than ten or a dozen railway accidents, of one sort or another, but chiefly collisions, nearly all of which were the result of carelessness and many the consequence of not adopting the block system. The French peasants, *Francs-Tireurs*, and other irregularly-constituted adversaries of German invasion, have got into a trick of breaking up portions of railways used by the Germans, and so bringing trains to grief; and, to rectify this, the Prussian officials have adopted the system of compelling a local Maire or some other well-known personage to ride upon the engines that run over dangerous ground. Now, might we not imitate those saturnine Prussians, and take hostages for the carefulness of our railway officials by making it incumbent on a director, a traffic manager, a secretary, or some railway notable, to mount the engine on each journey on all lines where accidents occur, or where the block system of signals and such-like needful precautions are neglected? If railway magnates can't be made to have regard for the lives and limbs of their customers, perhaps they might show some for their own. The plan is worth a trial, at all events, because what is good enough for ordinary passengers must be good enough for directors; and what is unsafe for ordinary passengers would, I am persuaded, be very speedily made safe for directors.

THE LITERARY LOUNGER.

THE MAGAZINES, ETC.

Routledge's Christmas Annual has a good list of contributors—Mr. Anthony Trollope, Mrs. Lynn Linton, Mr. Arthur Sketchley, Mrs. Macquoid, and others. Mr. Thomas Archer's story contains some really fine touches. If he would but break entirely with the Dickensian tradition as to style! By-the-by, too, Mr. C. H. Ross!—who was it, before you, described a small office as a "tank"?

By-the-by, Mr. Hatton, in the *Gentleman's Magazine*, reminds me of what I had forgotten—namely, that for a short time the late Mr. Mark Lemon edited the *Family Herald*, and made such an effort to give its subscribers high-class reading that he reduced the circulation by many thousands a week." Mr. Hatton adds quietly but grimly:—"One of the features which assisted to bring about this result was the republication in its pages of the *Waverley Novels*." Surely it was the *London Journal*, however, not the *Family Herald*? But, of course, Mr. Lemon had there (to use the expression once more) to break with a tradition. It does not follow that a periodical started on lines similar to those of the *London Journal*—or as servant-girls and shop-girls lovingly call it, "the *Journal*"—would not pay if it started fair. The paper "France Among the Nations" is one of the best yet published upon the war and its issues. Why is so fine a criticism anonymous? Quite true is it, as the author says, that a ray of splendid promise glimmers through the fanciful heroics of the foremost men of France, and that France has evidently a great part to play in the European family. But when he adds: "It is to the interest of Europe that she be left strong enough" [to play it] he narrowly escapes the cloud-land of the "balance of power." How strong is that to be? and how can we make her strong? are baffling questions. Nay, there is the still greater question, how can we dictate to the hidden Genius or Wire-Puller of History, and map out the future of an abstraction?

Beeton's *Garden Management and Rural Economy* is very pretty, and appears to be full of useful information. The other periodicals from the same house are as good as usual. In the *English-woman's Domestic Magazine* "My Three Wives and I" is full of *verve*. By-the-by, the "three wives" are married in succession, not all at once. One glance at a pretty little poem (American?) entitled "Left Behind":—

Canst thou not leave thy children
E'en for a husband's name?"

Away from the arms of the mother
How can the children thrive?

Again he called, and I followed—
We have but one child alive.

Her in my arms I gather,
Hurrying on thro' the gloom;

Alas! he is far beyond me,
His glory will be our tomb.

Alone, yes for ever he wanders;
Alone here always are we;

For one child I have lost my husband,
Once I had children three.

Say, can it be that glory
Is worth his children's life?

That his name in the ages' story
Will repay for the heart of his

wife?

Work! nothing seemed to tire him;
He worked thro' night to morn,
And I worked with him gallantly
Until our child was born.

Then he went far before me;
How could I keep pace then?

Say what ye will, ye women,
We cannot battle like men.

Painfully toiling after,
Burdened with children three,

"Come, love," his dear voice murmur'd,

"Be brave and walk with me."

"Onward, there lies our glory;
Onward, there waits our fame;"

This is pathetic, but will not bear looking at closely. Most assuredly, "glory" or "fame" is a mean and unjustifying motive in such a case. But how about a *vocation*? Garibaldi lost Anita,

and missionaries' wives constantly lose their children, while they themselves follow the "work" of their husbands. Do they repent of it? and what is the difference, if the husband and wife be together aiming at any great and useful end? Last, not least, must a woman neglect her children in order to "follow" her husband? or is it not, rather, likely, in the case of a couple between whom such a question could at all arise, that, as a natural consequence of their joint activity, they would be found united in the joint care of the children, so that the latter would fare a great deal better than, in too many cases, where the husband goes his way, and the wife takes no notice?

Aunt Judy contains an exquisite illustration by George Cruikshank. Mrs. Gatty seems to be very much tormented by rude, frivolous, silly, or irrelevant correspondence. May I venture to suggest that she could save herself some trouble, and space, by adopting such a heading as was started in the old days of the *Family Herald*, when it was edited by a Scotchman of much originality, and which ran like this:—"The questions are either inappropriate, too trivial, or we are unable to furnish the information required;" and then followed a lot of signatures.

The contributor is a most intelligent man; but why on earth did he fling that brief "Afternoon with a Sceptic," just as it is, into the *Sunday Magazine*? There is more to come, but why leave this to run its course for a month, at least? In the words of a competent and very cheerful critic, who likes homely words, "It is the most unkind paper I ever read"—that is, the "Sceptic" has infinitely the best of the battle; in fact, the "argument" on the other side is flabby in the extreme. The general contents of the magazine are up to the usual high mark.

The same of *Good Words*. What a brilliant paper on "Stradivarius of Cremona," by Mr. Haweis! Well illustrated and charmingly written it is; so that one quite enjoys a passing smile at the unintended half-insinuation on page 754 that the marriage of Jerome Amati was the ruin of his violin-making, or at least had a share in that work. The attempt made by the Bishop of Calcutta to bring the ancient Eclecticism and modern Brahmoism together is plausible, but none the less a failure. By-the-way, there was an Eclectic named Hypatia. Of what creed were the people who tore off her clothes, and scraped her to death with oyster-shells in that Alexandrian church? And by what arguments would Peter the deacon, who kicked her naked corpse to the high altar, have justified himself? Certain it is that they have been able to maintain themselves in life to this day, and are still so rampant that it is only secular causes which keep them down. I am afraid the ghost of Plotinus, if he could get to Calcutta, might very easily give the Bishop *mauvais quart d'heure*. Miss Ingelow's sonnets are very fine, and Mr. Arthur Hughes (printed Hayes in your last Number) has produced a picture worthy of them.

THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

I have very little theatrical news of any importance to chronicle. The past week has been very dull, but we are on the eve of numerous novelties. Beyond recording the fact that Déjazet has appeared in "Les Premières Armes de Richelieu" as the Duc de Richelieu, one of her most famous rôles; that the Alfred Theatre has opened under Mr. Giovannelli's management; and that a military and spectacular play of the Astley's order has been started at the Surrey, I find there is nothing else to add to the catalogue. I have nothing more to say about Déjazet. She is still a somewhat painful wonder; she is marvellous; she is clever; she is a consummate artist; but the pleasure of seeing her is not altogether pleasure unalloyed. Mr. Giovannelli has taken the Alfred Theatre in hand, which hitherto has been rather an unfortunate speculation. He has reduced the prices considerably, and plays two strong dramas, the first a parody of Andrew Halliday's "Amy Robsart," and the last suggested by Boucicault's "After Dark." The strong situations exactly suit the somewhat rough, but very well behaved, audience. Mr. E. T. Smith's military play is old fashioned and very sensational. I thought it would not be very long before we had a battle-piece.

Though Christmas is so near at hand, nearly every theatre is about to produce something new. To-night (Saturday) Andrew Halliday's "Little Nell" will be played at the Olympic. I like the look of the cast very much. I see Clarke as Quilp, Miss Johnstone as the Marchioness, Miss Charlotte Saunders as Mrs. Jarley, and, of course, Mr. Belmore as the old grandfather. Miss Florence Terry is simple and childlike enough for Little Nell; but I do not altogether relish Mr. David Fisher as Dick Swiveller. However, we shall see.

On the same night Mr. Gilbert's "Palace of Truth" is produced at the Haymarket, and also Mr. Phelps plays Othello at the Queen's, and Mr. Santley appears as Tom Tug in "The Waterman," at the Gaiety. "Ours" will be revived at the Prince of Wales's next week, with a cast very different from the original. Mr. Bancroft plays Hugh Chalco (formerly Mr. Clarke), Mr. Coghlan plays the lover (formerly Mr. Bancroft), Mr. Collette plays the sergeant (formerly Mr. Young), Miss Fanny Josephs plays the pretty girl (formerly Miss Louisa Moore); Mr. Hare, as the Russian Prince, and Miss Marie Wilton, retain their original characters. Next week, too, "Fra Diavolo" will be produced at the Gaiety, and a new burlesque called "Whittington and his Sensation Cat," by Mr. R. Reece, is announced for Wednesday at the Royal.

Mr. Alfred Thompson will design the dresses for the Covent Garden pantomime. It is not at all improbable that a short season of French plays will be given at the Lyceum, M. Lafont taking the lead again. This will be a treat.

BIRKBECK INSTITUTION.

If it is not an impertinent question, I should like to ask how many more months will elapse before the alterations at the Birkbeck will be completed. When I was there in July last, I had to pick my way through scaffold-poles, mortar, and heaps of dirty rubbish. I was there again last Saturday, and the building was still in an unfinished state. Certainly, the lecture-hall is completed; but before the entertainment was over, the stage was littered with shavings, which the ladies' dresses had trailed on. How is it, too, that programmes are not to be obtained in the hall? If there is no one to distribute them, surely the doorkeeper might be furnished with a supply. If you wanted a programme last Saturday, you had to go out of the institution by the back door, pass through Southampton-buildings, re-enter the building by the front door, trot up stairs into the library, and then retrace your steps back again. The present arrangement is a bad one, and I hope it will soon be altered. The performance of "Naval Engagements" was, to put it plainly, a failure. The entertainment was under the direction of Mr. A. J. Saunders; and anyone might have reasonably expected that Mr. Saunders would know his own part, and be pretty familiar with that of everyone else. At the Royalty Theatre, on "first nights," I have several times noticed Miss Oliver prompt the members of her company. With Mr. Saunders it was quite different. I don't think he uttered half-a-dozen sentences without the assistance of the prompter. The prompter, too, seemed very inattentive; for on two or three occasions the actors came to a dead stop, no one knowing what to say. The ladies were very well acquainted with their parts; but all the gentlemen were woefully deficient in theirs. If Miss Boville as Miss Mortimer had jumped about a little less awkwardly she would have pleased me more than she did. A short concert succeeded Mr. Dance's drama. Miss Eleanor St. Albyn executed "Should he upbraid," to the best of her ability. The lady would have been more successful in a less difficult piece. Miss Lillie Redgrave sang "Happy be thy dreams" and "Maggie's Secret;" and Miss Laura Bush gave us "Quite by chance," a pretty little song, and "Tapping at the Garden Gate." The intermediate portion of the programme was so successfully carried out that I fancy the majority of the audience would not have grumbled had it been a trifle longer. The entertainment terminated with "The Wonder: A Woman keeps a Secret!" Mr. Saunders, who appeared as Don Felix, wore his hat through the whole of the

first act, and in the second act he wore it hindside foremost. Mr. Gilliam, who represented Don Lopez, was apparently suffering from a severe attack of ague in the right arm. If Mr. Gilliam wished it to be understood that he was impersonating an old man, he might easily have done so without making his walking-stick oscillate in such a very ridiculous manner. Mr. E. H. Cuthbert's Gibby was creditable; Mr. Douglas was effective as Colonel Briton; and Mr. E. Brown was an amusing Lissardo. The best piece of acting in "The Wonder" was Miss Lewis's Donna Violante. Miss Lewis must have had considerable practice on the amateur stage, I fancy. Miss St. Albyn was an interesting Donna Isabella, and Miss Worrell and Mrs. Douglas were satisfactory representatives of Inez and Flora. If the members of the Birkbeck Elocution Society were to study their parts a little more attentively, their histrionic entertainments would be well worth seeing.

THE CAPTAIN RELIEF FUND.

MR. THOMAS GABRIEL, Mr. Samuel Morley, and Mr. John F. Gassiot have issued the following statement in reference to the City subscriptions to the Captain Relief Fund:—

An intimate acquaintance with the mercantile community of the city of London leads us to the conviction that the true position of the widows and orphans of those lost in the Captain has not hitherto been so placed before the bankers, merchants, and wealthy traders of London as to awaken the attention it demands; and we ask permission, in your columns, to make a statement respecting it. Up to the present time the relief which is absolutely required to save many from want and misery has been left to be provided in undue proportion by the officers and men of the Navy, who have responded with great promptitude and liberality. The published lists of the Portsmouth committee show that there is scarcely a ship in her Majesty's service which has not contributed—officers, men, and boys vying with each other in alacrity to swell the amount of the common fund, without any parade of names. On the 10th the actual result of the subscriptions is stated to be—Amount in Portman Bank and through Portsmouth committee, £32,990 6s. 1d.; Mansion House committee, per London and Westminster Bank, £2716; and this last small sum includes £250 subscribed by the Corporation and £100 by Lloyd's before the Mansion House committee was formed. We regret to state that we find that there exists an unmistakable feeling among naval men that the country generally takes little or no interest in their profession, is content to purchase the services of seamen at the lowest market price, fixes the sum at which they are to be killed or drowned, as the case may be, and is altogether indifferent whether their widows and children afterwards starve. This feeling, we regret to say, prevails in quarters of which we have knowledge, and we prefer describing it in the plain language we have heard. It must be remembered that the present pensions to officers' widows are the same as they were in 1814, while the expense of house rent and education is probably threefold what it was at the date mentioned. The amount of subscriptions of the bankers and merchants of London to the Captain Relief Fund is contrasted by naval men with the hundreds and thousands subscribed for the aid of the wounded in war in foreign lands, and the reluctance to assist in such an emergency as the loss of the Captain is deeply felt throughout our English service. We have now ascertained that the money required for the moderate pensions and allowances proposed by the Portsmouth committee will not exceed £62,000. More than half of this has been mainly collected from ship to ship and from house to house by individual officers, their wives, and even children; and we respectfully appeal to our fellow-citizens to complete the work so nobly begun by the seamen. We have examined the estimates, and believe they will not be exceeded. We pledge ourselves, when the sum named has been exceeded, to stop all further advertisements, for it forms no part of our desire to accumulate funds which are not required. The Portsmouth committee propose to augment the pension received by the widows of officers from the Government by a sum equivalent to an ordinary pension. By the Government scale the widows of the lieutenants will receive, some £100 and some £65 per annum; the ordinary pensions being £70 and £50 respectively. The warrant officers' widows £30 from Government, their ordinary pension being £25. To the widows of petty officers, seamen, and marines one year's pay only is allotted, and to these the committee propose to give pensions of not less than £10 per annum, and to the children £6, until the boys are fourteen and the girls sixteen years of age. With some few special cases of fathers, brothers, sisters and other relatives who were mainly dependent on those who were lost, the above mainly constitute all the claims which have been allowed by the Portsmouth committee; and to meet them, together with the expenses incurred, it is estimated that £62,000 will be sufficient. We respectfully ask for contributions, to be paid into the London and Westminster Bank, or to be sent to the secretaries, at the Mansion House.

On Wednesday a meeting of the London committee of the Captain Relief Fund was held, under the presidency of the Lord Mayor. It was reported that the whole sum received at the Mansion House was £2904; that a total of £62,000 was necessary; and that of this amount £25,000 was still required. A circular was drawn up making an earnest appeal for further subscriptions.

OBITUARY.

SIR ROBERT GILMOUR COLQUHOUN.—The above diplomatic servant of her Majesty died on the 10th inst., and, according to the obituary notice, was the last of his line. He was born in Scotland, about the year 1803. He married, first, in 1837, Margaret Charlotte, daughter of Mr. T. Hog, which lady died in 1836; and, secondly, Anne, only daughter of Mr. W. Cathrow, M.R.C.S., of Stoke Lodge, Bucks. The deceased was educated at Pembroke College, Oxford, and subsequently entered the diplomatic service. His first appointment was in 1834, Consul at Bucharest; he was appointed Consul-General in December, 1837, and Agent and Consul-General in November, 1851. Owing to his energetic and loyal services he was rewarded by the Sultan, in 1840, with the Imperial Turkish order of the Nishan Ittihâr, in brilliants. He was subsequently employed in Bosnia on a special mission in 1854. In December, 1858, he was appointed her Majesty's Agent and Consul-General in Egypt, which post he retained up to 1865, when he was succeeded by the present able British representative, Colonel Stanton. For his civil and diplomatic duties he was created a Commander of the Bath in 1859, and was further promoted as a Knight Commander in May, 1866. He retired upon his pension in 1866.

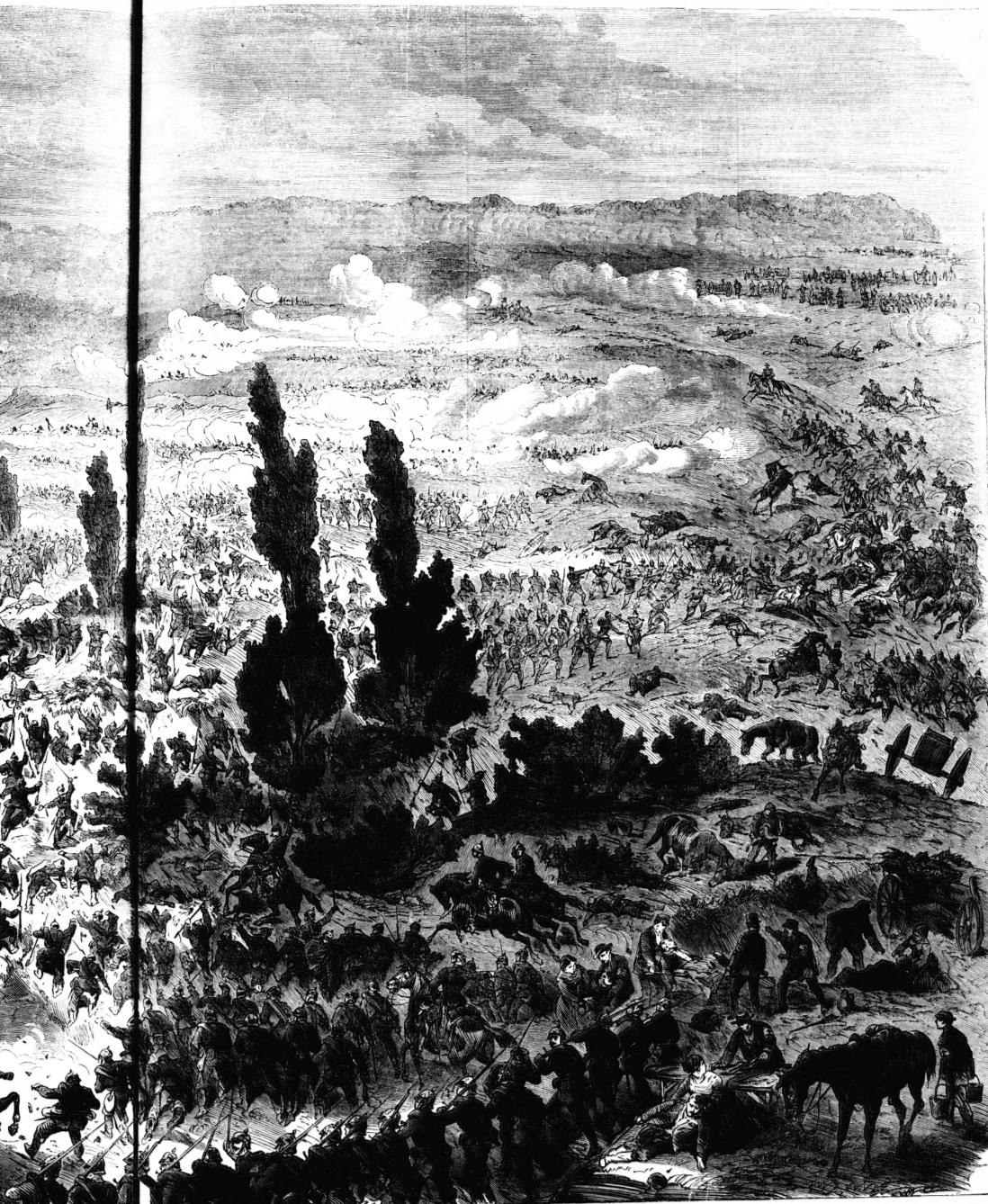
MR. CHARLES SALISBURY BUTLER.—Very many readers will be sorry to hear of the death of Mr. Charles Salisbury Butler, of Cazenovia, Upper Clapton, who was for sixteen years one of the representatives of the Tower Hamlets in Parliament, in the advanced Liberal interest. The eldest son of the late Mr. John Butler, of Hackney, he was born in 1812. In 1852 he was elected M.P. for the Tower Hamlets, and retained his seat at each general election from that date down to December, 1868, when he stood for the new borough of Hackney, but was defeated. He was a magistrate for Middlesex, and for the city of Westminster, a magistrate and Deputy Lieutenant for the Tower Hamlets, and chairman of the Quarter Sessions for the Tower Hamlets liberties. His son, Mr. Charles E. K. Butler, is also a Deputy Lieutenant for the Tower Hamlets. The late Mr. Butler, according to the *Parliamentary Companion*, was a supporter of the ballot, but opposed to annual Parliaments.

THE HON. AND REV. LELAND NOEL.—The death is announced of the Hon. and Rev. Leland Noel, Vicar of Exton, Rutlandshire, and Honorary Canon of Peterborough Cathedral in 1850. Mr. Leland Noel, who was in his seventy-fourth year, was brother of the Hon. and Rev. Baptist Noel, and uncle of the Earl of Gainsborough and the Hon. Gerard Noel, M.P.

HAMPSTEAD-HEATH.—It is to be hoped that the Metropolitan Board of Works, having secured Hampstead-heath for the public, will pay no attention to the wish stated to have been expressed the other day by the vestry of that parish, that the heath should be allowed to remain in its "normal condition." It is very natural that the vestry should view with alarm the prospect of increased cleanliness and order which looms in the distance now that the heath has become public property; for, as the *Lancet* of last week very truly remarks, the "normal condition" of the heath is one of disgusting filthiness over the great part of its surface, and has long been a disgrace to the local authority of Hampstead, for which the question of proprietorship offered no valid excuse. It has been used as a dépôt for rubbish and filth of every description; parts of it are converted into filthy sloughs, and many of the roadside ditches are, according to the *Lancet*, receptacles for sewage. The sooner the Metropolitan Board can thoroughly cleanse their new property the better, and, having reduced it to a state of decency, they should inform the vestry that they will hold the local authority responsible for any relapse into dirtiness they may allow to



THE WAR: THE GERMAN ARMY STORMING THE HEIGHTS OF SPICHEREN, NEAR SAARBRÜCKEN.



HING THE HEIGHTS OF SPICHEREN, NEAR SAARBRUCK, ON AUG. 6.—(SEE PAGE 333)

REVIVAL OF THE EASTERN QUESTION.

RUSSIAN CIRCULAR.

WHILE the storm raging in the West, after a treacherous lull, is threatening to break forth with renewed fury, a storm which was anticipated at the end of it from the East seems to be setting in before its time.

Prince Gortschakoff has issued a circular dated Oct. 19 (31st), which has been sent to the Russian agents accredited at the Courts which have signed the Treaty of Paris of 1856, with the instruction to read it and leave a copy of it with the Government to which they are accredited. In this note the Russian Chancellor declares that his Imperial master does not consider himself further bound by those articles of the treaty of 1856 which have reference to the neutrality of the Black Sea and to the limitation of the right of the riverain Powers to keep vessels of war. The language of the note is very precise and its tone decided, having almost a taste à la Menschikoff in it. In the first part of it the reasons are stated which have induced the Czar to take this resolution. It is said that the changes which have occurred in the course of time in all those transactions which form the basis of the public right and the political equilibrium of Europe could not but excite the most serious attention of his Russian Majesty. Among these transactions is the Treaty of 1859, and especially those portions of it which refer to the limitation of the right of Russia to build and keep vessels of war beyond a certain number and size in the Black Sea. It was, indeed, the intention of the treaty to counterbalance this restriction laid on Russia by the declaration of the neutrality of the Black Sea, which was to have given security from attack to its frontier line, so extended in that direction. But the experience of the last fifteen years has shown that this security only exists in theory. Indeed, while Turkey has during that time got up in the Bosphorus a fleet of the most powerful kind, provided with all the newest improvements, which might at any moment threaten and endanger the Russian dominions, Russia, which has conscientiously adhered to its treaty obligations, would not be in a position to oppose such a force. Moreover, the "Convention of the Straits" closes the straits of the Dardanelles and of the Bosphorus only in time of peace, while in time of war they might be opened to any Power which might think fit to attack Russia, which could not even defend herself against any small Power. The security which the neutrality of the Black Sea was to have given to Russia is therefore a mere fiction by which Russia could so much the less think herself bound, as other provisions of this same Treaty of 1856 have been more than once violated by others. Thus the provisions of that treaty with regard to Moldavia and Wallachia have undergone complete alteration; not only have these two principalities, with the adherence of the Porte and the other signatories of the treaty, been united, but they were allowed to choose a foreign Prince as their Sovereign. Russia alone raised her voice at the time and drew the attention of the Powers assembled in conference to the danger of such precedents, but she was overruled. Nor has the neutrality of the Black Sea and the provision that no vessels of war, except those specified by the treaty, should be allowed to enter been invariably observed, and repeatedly under different pretexts large vessels of war have actually appeared in that sea. This facility becomes so much the more dangerous to Russia as since the conclusion of the Treaty of 1856 armour-clad vessels have been invented which were unknown at that time.

All these things could not but be matter for the serious consideration of his Majesty the Czar, who, after mature reflections, has come to the following conclusions:—He cannot admit that he should be deprived any longer of a part of his rights of sovereignty essential for the defence of the Empire on that side and get in return for it, in the neutrality of the Black Sea, a guarantee which has turned out to be an illusion. He cannot admit, further, that he alone should be governed by those provisions of the treaty which are onerous to his Empire, while other provisions of that treaty were allowed to be set aside.

The representatives of Russia abroad are therefore ordered to declare:—That his Majesty the Emperor does not consider himself any further bound by the stipulations of the treaty which limit his rights of sovereignty in the Black Sea; that he feels bound in duty to denounce (*dénoncer*) to his Majesty the Sultan the separate convention which has been concluded between them in this respect; that he loyally and frankly informs of this his resolution the Powers which signed the Treaty of 1856; that he gives back to his Majesty the Sultan the use of his full rights of sovereignty in the Black Sea, as he himself takes back the full exercise of them. While informing the Governments of his resolution, the Russian representatives are to assure them that nothing can be further from his intention than to revive the whole Eastern question; that, on the contrary, actuated by the wish to see peace re-established everywhere, he is therefore quite ready, in common accord with the other Powers, to confirm all the other provisions of the Treaty of Paris, or to make those amendments in them which may be considered desirable.

LORD GRANVILLE'S REPLY.

On the 10th inst. Lord Granville replied to Prince Gortschakoff's circular in a despatch to our Ambassador at St. Petersburg. His Lordship says:—

"Prince Gortschakoff declares, on the part of his Imperial Majesty, that the Treaty of 1856 has been infringed in various respects to the prejudice of Russia, and, more especially, in the case of the Principalities, against the explicit protest of his representative, and that, in consequence of these infractions, Russia is entitled to renounce those stipulations of the treaty which directly touch her interests. It is then announced that she will no longer be bound by the treaties which restrict her rights of sovereignty in the Black Sea. We have here an allegation that certain facts have occurred which, in the judgment of Russia, are at variance with certain stipulations of the treaty, and the assumption is made that Russia, upon the strength of her own judgment as to the character of those facts, is entitled to release herself from certain other stipulations of that instrument. This assumption is limited in its practical application to some of the provisions of the treaty; but the assumption of a right to renounce any one of its terms involves the assumption of a right to renounce the whole. This statement is wholly independent of the reasonableness or unreasonableness, on its own merits, of the desire of Russia to be released from the observation of the stipulations of the Treaty of 1856 respecting the Black Sea. For the question is, in whose hand lies the power of releasing one or more of the parties from all or any of these stipulations. It has always been held that that right belongs only to the Governments who have been parties to the original instrument. The despatches of Prince Gortschakoff appear to assume that any one of the Powers who have signed the engagement may allege that occurrences have taken place which, in its opinion, are at variance with the provisions of the treaty; and, although this view is not shared nor admitted by the co-signatory Powers, may found upon that allegation not a request to those Governments for the consideration of the case, but an announcement to them that it has emancipated itself, or holds itself emancipated, from any stipulations of the treaty which it thinks fit to disapprove. Yet it is quite evident that the effect of such doctrine, and of any proceeding which, with or without avowal, is founded upon it, is to bring the entire authority and efficacy of treaties under the discretionary control of each one of the Powers who may have signed them; the result of which would be the entire destruction of treaties in their essence. For whereas the whole object is to bind Powers to one another, and for this purpose each one of the parties surrenders a portion of its free agency, by the doctrine and proceeding now in question one of the parties in its separate and individual capacity brings back the entire subject into its own control, and remains bound only to itself. Accordingly, Prince Gortschakoff has announced in these despatches the intention of Russia to continue to observe certain

of the provisions of the treaty. However satisfactory this may be in itself, it is obviously the expression of the free will of that Power, which it might at any time alter or withdraw; and in this it is thus open to the same objections as the other portions of the communications, because it implies the right of Russia to annul the treaty on the ground of allegations of which she constitutes herself the only judge. The question, therefore, arises, not whether any desire expressed by Russia ought to be carefully examined in a friendly spirit by the co-signatory Powers, but whether they are to accept from her the announcement that, by her own act, without any consent from them, she has released herself from a solemn covenant. I need scarcely say that her Majesty's Government have received this communication with deep regret, because it opens a discussion which might unsettle the cordial understanding it has been their earnest endeavour to maintain with the Russian Empire; and, for the above-mentioned reasons, it is impossible for her Majesty's Government to give any sanction on their part to the course announced by Prince Gortschakoff. If, instead of such a declaration, the Russian Government had addressed her Majesty's Government and the other Powers who are parties to the Treaty of 1856, and had proposed for consideration with them whether anything has occurred which could be held to amount to an infraction of the treaty, or whether there is anything in the terms which, from altered circumstances, presses with undue severity upon Russia, or which, in the course of events, had become unnecessary for the due protection of Turkey, her Majesty's Government would not have refused to examine the question in concert with the co-signatories to the treaty. Whatever might have been the result of such communications, a risk of future complications and a very dangerous precedent as to the validity of international obligations would have been avoided."

THE TREATY OF 1856.

The following are the principal articles of the Treaty of 1856:—

Art. 7. The Queen of Great Britain and Ireland, the Emperor of Austria, the Emperor of the French, the King of Prussia, the Emperor of Russia, and the King of Sardinia declare the Sublime Porte admitted to participate in the advantages of the public law and system (concert) of Europe. Their Majesties engage, each on his part, to respect the independence and territorial integrity of the Ottoman Empire; guarantee in common the strict observance of that engagement; and will, in consequence, consider any act tending to its violation as a question of general interest.

Art. 8. If there should arise between the Sublime Porte and one or more of the other signing Powers any misunderstanding which might endanger the maintenance of their relations, the Sublime Porte, and each of such Powers, before having recourse to the use of force, shall afford the other contracting parties the opportunity of preventing such an extremity by means of their mediation.

Art. 10. The Convention of July 13, 1841, which maintains the ancient rule of the Ottoman Empire relative to the closing of the Straits of the Bosphorus and of the Dardanelles, has been revised by common consent.

The Convention concluded for that purpose, and in conformity with that principle, between the high contracting parties, is and remains annexed to the present treaty, and shall have the same force and validity as if it formed an integral part thereof.

Art. 11. The Black Sea is neutralised; its waters and its ports, thrown open to the mercantile marine of every nation, are formally and in perpetuity interdicted to the flag of war, either of the Powers possessing its coasts or of any other Power, with the exceptions mentioned in articles 14 and 19 of the present treaty.

Art. 12. Free from any impediment, the commerce in the ports and waters of the Black Sea shall be subject only to regulations of health, customs, and police, framed in a spirit favourable to the development of commercial transactions.

In order to afford to the commercial and maritime interests of every nation the security which is desired, Russia and the Sublime Porte will admit Consuls into their ports situated upon the coast of the Black Sea, in conformity with the principles of international law.

Art. 13. The Black Sea being neutralised according to the terms of art. 11, the maintenance or establishment upon its coast of military-maritime arsenals becomes alike unnecessary and purposeless; in consequence, the Emperor of Russia and the Sultan engage not to establish or to maintain upon that coast any military-maritime arsenal.

To the treaty was added the following convention respecting the Straits of the Dardanelles and of the Bosphorus:—

Art. 1. His Majesty the Sultan, on the one part, declares that he is firmly resolved to maintain for the future the principle invariably established as the ancient rule of his empire, and in virtue of which it has, at all times, been prohibited for the ships of war of foreign Powers to enter the Straits of the Dardanelles and of the Bosphorus; and that, so long as the Porte is at peace, his Majesty will admit no foreign ship of war into the said Straits.

And their Majesties the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, the Emperor of Austria, the Emperor of the French, the King of Prussia, the Emperor of all the Russias, and the King of Sardinia, on the other part, engage to respect this determination of the Sultan, and to conform themselves to the principle above declared.

Art. 2. The Sultan reserves to himself, as in past times, to deliver firmans of passage for light vessels under flag of war, which shall be employed, as is usual, in the service of the missions of foreign Powers.

Art. 3. The same exception applies to the light vessels under flag of war which each of the contracting Powers is authorised to station at the mouths of the Danube in order to secure the execution of the regulations relative to the liberty of that river, and the number of which is not to exceed two for each Power.

And with respect to the amount of naval forces which Russia and Turkey might respectively keep in the Black Sea, it was agreed in a separate convention between those two Powers as follows:—

Art. 1. The high contracting parties mutually engage not to have in the Black Sea any other vessels of war than those of which the number, the force, and the dimensions are hereinafter stipulated.

Art. 2. The high contracting parties reserve to themselves each to maintain in that sea six steam-vessels of fifty metres in length at the time of notation, of a tonnage of 800 tons at the maximum, and four light steam or sailing vessels of a tonnage which shall not exceed 200 tons each.

The *Indépendance Belge* of Brussels publishes a telegram from Vienna, dated Tuesday, according to which England, Turkey, Austria, and Italy have agreed to observe a common and decisive attitude towards Russia. We learn from Tours that the possibility of Eastern complications is much discussed by the French press, and the keenest interest is felt as to the attitude England will take up. News that orders had been given to arm the English fleet had caused a strong sensation. The *Daily News* correspondent in St. Petersburg, writing on the 12th, says that the despatch announcing the intention of the Russian Government to free itself from the restrictions with regard to the Black Sea imposed by the Treaty of 1856, was presented in London, Vienna, Constantinople, Florence, and Tours on Wednesday, the 9th inst. The news was not generally known in St. Petersburg when the correspondent wrote; but, as far as he could then gather, the action of Russia was generally approved. Some people were greatly excited; and it was confidently expected that if Austria fought England would. Others seemed to feel convinced that England would not fight. The Vienna correspondent of the *Standard* telegraphs as follows:—"The Russian note announcing the annulment of the Black Sea stipulations in the Paris Treaty was at last officially delivered to the Porte on Wednesday. Turkey is resolved upon a most determined resistance. Great war preparations are being made. A copy of Lord Granville's note in reply to the Russian notification has arrived here. Austria has sent an identical note to St. Petersburg. The Emperor refuses to accept Count Beust's tendered resignation."

EXPLOSION AT A CARTRIDGE FACTORY.—An explosion occurred, on Thursday afternoon, at Messrs. Kynoch and Co.'s manufactory, Witton, near Birmingham. A cartridge burst, causing an explosion of others, which blew the roof of the shed and injured twenty-five persons engaged in it. They lie in the General Hospital, Birmingham, many of them being seriously hurt. Several are not expected to recover.

SACRED HARMONIC SOCIETY.—The annual meeting of this society was held, on Wednesday evening, in Exeter Hall. A proposed Handel Festival, on the scale of former years, to be held at the Crystal Palace, in June next, and some concerts of sacred music at the Royal Albert Hall, now in process of completion at Kensington, in May and June next, were alluded to in the report. Mr. Thomas Brewer, the society's hon. secretary from its formation, in 1852, was elected to be president; and Mr. Daniel Hill, for many years past the hon. superintendent of the society's soprano chorus, to be treasurer. The post of hon. secretary thus vacated was filled by the election of Mr. J. F. Puttick.

THE ARMISTICE NEGOTIATIONS.

CIRCULAR OF COUNT BISMARCK.

THE following is a translation of an official circular issued by Count Bismarck respecting his conversation with M. Thiers at Versailles:—

Versailles, Nov. 1870.

Your Excellency is aware that M. Thiers had expressed a wish to be allowed to repair to head-quarters for the purpose of entering into negotiations, after having first placed himself in communication with the different members of the Government of the National Defence in Tours and in Paris. At the command of his Majesty the King I declared myself willing to enter into such a conversation, and M. Thiers was permitted to enter Paris on the 30th ult., whence he returned to head-quarters on the 31st. The fact that a statesman of the importance and experience in business of M. Thiers had received full powers of the Paris Government allowed me to hope that propositions would be made to us the acceptance of which would be possible and conducive to the establishment of peace. I received M. Thiers with the respect to which personal distinction independently of our former mutual relations gave him full claim. M. Thiers stated that at the wish of the neutral Powers France was willing to agree to an armistice. In the face of this declaration his Majesty had to take into consideration that any armistice in itself involved for Germany all those disadvantages which for an army receiving its supplies from distant sources are necessarily combined with every prolongation of the campaign. Besides this, the armistice imposed on us the obligation of rationing those German troops which the capitulation of Metz had placed at our disposal in the positions they occupied on the day the armistice was signed, and thus of renouncing the occupation of other hostile territories which could now be seized without our having to overcome any very serious resistance. On the other hand, the armistice would have given France the opportunity of developing her resources, of completing her armies now in progress of formation; and, if hostilities should recommence after the expiration of the armistice, of opposing to us troops capable of resistance which are not now in existence. Notwithstanding these considerations, his Majesty allowed his wish to take a first step towards peace to prevail; and I was empowered to meet M. Thiers immediately with the concession of an armistice of twenty-five, or even, as he afterwards wished, of twenty-eight days, on the basis of the status quo on the day of signature. I proposed to him that we should draw a line of demarcation for the position of the troops of both countries as it should be on the day of signature, to suspend hostilities, and in the course of this time to proceed with the elections and the constitution of a national representation. On the part of the French this suspension of hostilities would have involved no other military consequence than the renunciation of little and invariably unsuccessful sorties and an unprofitable waste of artillery ammunition from the guns of the fortress during the armistice. With regard to the elections, I was able to state that we should insist on no stipulation which would place in question the ownership of France in the German departments before the conclusion of peace, and that we should not call to account any inhabitant of the same for appearing as the representative of his countrymen in a French National Assembly. I was astonished when the French negotiator rejected these proposals, in which all the advantages were on the French side, and when he declared that he would only be able to accept an armistice if it included the admission of the revictualling of Paris on a large scale. I replied that this admission would include a military concession going so far beyond the status quo, and every expectation that could be reasonably entertained, that I would ask him whether he were in a position to offer us an equivalent for it; and, if so, what that equivalent would be. M. Thiers answered that he was not empowered to make any military offer in return, and that he must demand the revictualling of Paris without being able to offer anything more in return than the willingness of the Paris Government to allow the French nation to elect a representative assembly which, in all probability, would appoint some official authority with which it would be possible to negotiate respecting peace. In this position of affairs I had to lay the result of our negotiations before the King and his military advisers. His Majesty was very justly surprised at such exorbitant military demands, and disappointed in the expectations he had entertained from the conferences with M. Thiers. The incredible suggestion that we should give up the fruits of all the exertions made and advantages gained during the last two months, and bring things back to the point on which they stood at the commencement of the investment of the capital, could only supply another proof that the object in Paris was to find pretexts for refusing the nation its elections. At my wish, to make one more attempt to come to an understanding on another basis before continuing hostilities, M. Thiers had another conference, on the 5th inst., at the line of outposts with the members of the Paris Government in order to propose to them either a shorter armistice on the basis of the status quo, or else the simple issue of the writs for the elections without any formally accepted armistice, in which case I could promise free admission and all facilities in any way consistent with our military security. M. Thiers has not made any detailed communication to me respecting the substance of his conference with MM. Favre and Trochu. He could only tell me as the result of the same that he had received instructions to break off the negotiations and leave Versailles, as an armistice including the revictualling of Paris was not to be obtained. His departure for Tours took place on the morning of the 7th inst. The course which the negotiations took left the conviction in my mind that the present rulers of France have not from the beginning entertained the earnest wish to allow the voice of the French nation to obtain expression by the free election of an assembly that should represent it, and that it has been just as little their intention to bring about an armistice, but that they have insisted on a condition which they must have been convinced we could not accept merely not to return a refusal to the neutral Powers for whose support they hope. I request your Excellency to express yourself in the sense of this despatch, which you are also empowered to read.

BISMARCK.

REPORT OF M. THIERS.

The following is a summary of the report drawn up by M. Thiers on the 9th inst., on his mission to the German headquarters, which has been communicated to the representatives of the great Powers and of Turkey and Spain:—

M. Thiers explains that the object of his journey was to obtain an armistice, and that Count Bismarck admitted the expediency of his mission, though, at the same time, he made certain reserves upon the intervention of the neutral Powers in these negotiations. These had for their object the conclusion of an armistice, in order to prevent further bloodshed, and to permit France to establish by means of elections, freely held, a regular Government, by which a treaty might be signed in a valid manner. The Chancellor having alluded to the members of the late régime who were endeavouring to re-constitute themselves into a Government at Cassel, M. Thiers replied at once that that Government had for ever ceased to exist, and had no future chance of success. M. de Bismarck then protested against any ideas of German interference in the internal affairs of France. The questions which were mooted during the first conference were, first, the principle of the armistice; second, its duration, the freedom of election in the occupied provinces; third, the positions to be retained and relations to be observed by the belligerent armies; and, lastly, the revictualling of all besieged places, and especially of Paris, during the armistice. Count Bismarck did not appear to entertain any insurmountable objections on these questions, and M. Thiers thought that an understanding would probably be arrived at on all the other points. The conferences followed one another, two being generally held each day.

The first two points having been agreed upon, and the duration of the armistice having been fixed at twenty-five days, it was also agreed that nothing would be prejudiced by the conclusion of an armistice. With regard to the questions raised relative to Alsace and Lorraine, Count Bismarck said he could not permit any electoral agitation in those provinces; but added that he would not refuse that they should be represented by influential persons, without Germany interfering with the elections, and this point was agreed to by both parties.

On the fourth point several discussions took place between M. Thiers, Count Bismarck, and the Prussian Generals; but the question of the revictualling did not at first give rise to any fundamental objection on the part of the Chancellor, who referred it to the military authorities. On the 3rd M. Thiers said that the revictualling of the besieged places had become not a mere question of details, but a *sine qua non*. Count Bismarck, on behalf of the Prussian Generals, declared that the armistice was absolutely against the interests of the Prussians, and that he could only consent to the revictualling of Paris if the Government of the National Defence was prepared to concede some military equivalent, as, for example, a military position round Paris. M. Thiers having insisted, Count Bismarck added that by a military position he meant "a fort, and perhaps more than one." Thereupon M. Thiers stopped him immediately, and declared that to refuse Paris to be revictualled was equal to depriving her of her sources of resisting during a month, and that to demand a fort was nothing less than to demand a surrender of the ramparts.

Thiers then relates his interview with M. Jules Favre, the end of the negotiations, the refusal to proceed with the election without an armistice, and concludes his report as follows:—
The time has now come for the neutral Powers to judge if sufficient attention has been paid to their advice, but it is not us they can reproach with having disregarded it, and we make them judges of the conduct of both belligerent Powers. I have used all my efforts to recover for my country the blessings of peace, which it had lost by the errors of a Government whose existence alone was a mistake. France having accepted such a Government, and having abandoned it, without retaining any control, all her times, has been a great and irreparable fault."

THE JEWS IN ROME

In this wretched population—wretched beyond expression—miserably crushed down by bigotry and oppression, nearly one half—some 2000 persons—are daily making the streets and squares of Rome echo with cries—the Italian equivalents of “old clo.”

What episodes of misery, what epochs of persecution, are not

seen in their bent forms and their thin, querulous cries!

Albanti has sketched the suffering which is the badge of all their life, and its outlines are the following. The horrid den in which

they are cooped up was assigned to them, about the middle of the

seventeenth century, by Pope Paul IV., with the benevolent view

of preserving Catholics from the fatal contagion of their inter-

course. Pius V. managed to improve even on the rigour of the

“Caraffa”; he found time amidst his plotting against Elizabeth

and the Huguenots to make the iron enter more deeply into the

souls of his own Jewish subjects. He kept them immured in the

Ghetto as closely as galley-slaves. When by chance a wretched

II-brew was deserted in the streets of Rome, the hue-and-cry was

given, and he was hunted back to the common den, or, worse still,

dragged to the cells of the Inquisition. Such stories as are now

read in China against Christian missionaries—the stories which

other European countries had given rise to the massacres associated with little Hugh of Lincoln, or St. Simon, the child saint of

Trent—were naturally more rife at Rome itself, the head-quarters

of the Inquisition, and there attended with more immediate in-

jury to the unjustly-calamitated victims. In 1847 permissions

were given, for the first time, to Jews to dwell beyond the pre-

cincts of the Ghetto; but even then only in its immediate vicinity. The permissions, however, were never granted in a legal form; not

even in writing. They were only a verbal permission of the

Cardinal Vicar, which might at any moment be recalled

on the complaint of the first Catholic house proprietor who

took it into his head to regard their proximity to him as

a cause of civil or religious scandal. The Jews were

in all respects the pariahs of society. To vex and oppress

them was a thing pleasing to God and man. Their testimony was

not considered as valid in any court of law, so that a Christian

who killed a Jew in the presence of twenty Jewish witnesses

remained unpunished for want of proof. They could not possess

real property, a disqualification which unhappily existed too long

in countries more enlightened. They were debarred from all the

liberal professions, from attendance on the public schools and

academics—the only exception in their favour being the permission

to attend the medical lectures at the University. A Jew might

thus become a physician or a surgeon, but could only practise

amongst the members of his own communion. Under no con-

ceivable circumstances was it permitted to him to exercise the

healing art on a Christian, not even though the Christian had

been struck down by his side on the public highway in a fit of

apoplexy which the immediate use of his lancet might have

relieved. Nor was that all. The prejudice or caprice of the

Cardinal Vicar frequently prohibited the Jewish practitioner, when once

licensed, from practising in Rome or the Papal provinces, so that

he was driven from his family, and compelled to wander forth to

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WAR SKETCHES.

AFTER a week's interval, devoted, by way of relief, to other subjects, we resume in this Number our Sketches of War incidents. Each of the subjects delineated in our Engravings has already been fully described in our columns, and will at once be familiar to our readers. These pictures—for they are all pictures, and finished ones, too—will be alike interesting to the general reader and to the student of the history of this terrible conflict.

Taking them in chronological order, we have first the large view of the Storming of the Heights of Spicheren on that day, so fatal to the arms of France, Aug. 6, when she sustained a double defeat—the one at Wörth and the other between Saarbrück and Forbach, the army corps of M'Mahon being discomfited in the one encounter and that of General Frossard in the other.

We next come to the battle of Aug. 18, when Bazaine was finally forced back upon Metz; the section of that severe battle depicted being the attack on St. Privat by the Prussian Guards. Of the operations in this quarter we have already published several illustrations, and our present Engraving completes the series.

Passing over for the present the events at Sedan and the operations which led to that catastrophe, we have those same Prussian Guards, their great flank march completed, and the ground between the Belgian frontier and the Seine again traversed, making their appearance before Paris on Sept. 20, to begin that siege of the French capital that is likely to be memorable in history. Neither fighting (though it has sadly decimated the ranks) nor marching (though the tramp was long and weary) has daunted the energies of those doughty soldiers; and here they are taking up the position assigned to them with the same steady firmness with which they fought at Gravelotte and conquered at Sedan.

Finally, we place before our readers a scene sketched in Strasbourg after the bombardment. The locality is the Steinstrasse, and the time the Sunday succeeding the surrender. The beautiful cathedral spire, as our readers already know, is comparatively uninjured; but shattered roofs, dilapidated walls, protruding beams, and heaps of rubbish, show how deadly and destructive had been the iron hail which was poured on the doomed city, and that, too, by men who mourned the mischief done by every shot and shell they fired. This destruction may have been a necessity; but it was a sad one all the same. Would that no other French cities were fated to endure a like ordeal!

THE PAYNE MEMORIAL,
HIGHGATE CEMETERY.

THE name of the late Joseph Payne, Esq., who for many years filled the post of Deputy-Assistant Judge at the Middlesex Sessions, will be familiar to most of our readers; and in benevolent and philanthropic circles his name is equally well known and respected as one of the earliest and most strenuous advocates of ragged schools, some of the most useful results of that effort for the amelioration of the moral and social condition of the ragged and homeless children of London being due to his warm-hearted and thoughtful exertions. On the occasion of his sudden decease, in March last, there was a spontaneous desire expressed by the many ragged schools in which his kindly smile and cheery voice were familiar, to testify their remembrance of his goodness and worth by some substantial memorial. The matter was taken in hand by the Ragged-School Union and its earnest secretary, Mr. Gent; and a committee, of which the Earl of Shaftesbury was chairman, was formed for the purpose of erecting a memorial over his honoured remains in Highgate Cemetery. Subscriptions were limited in amount to five shillings, in order that the poorest might have a share in the work; and we understand that the necessary sum of about £100 was speedily raised. Mr. Henry Spalding, the architect, being interested in ragged schools, presented a design for a simple obelisk, which was adopted by the committee, and forms the subject of our illustration. It consists of a needle of white Sicilian marble resting on a pedestal or die of polished red granite, the whole, with a plinth of grey granite, having a height of over 16 ft. It is simply inscribed—“JOSEPH PAYNE, Deputy-Assistant Judge. Born Nov. 13, 1877; died March 29, 1870. Erected to his memory by the friends and supporters of Ragged Schools.”

A “STRANGE STORY” EXPLAINED.

A PAMPHLET has been published by Mr. Ridgway, in which the “Strange Story” that so perplexed everybody a while ago is explained, and a strong light thrown upon the Mr. “N.” or “M.” about whom there was at first so much cloudy mystery. A portrait of “M.” or “N.” is, indeed, given in the work, and the work itself is by his own hand. The Strange Story, therefore, is now told in all its details, and in a manner which may lay claim to be considered “official.” Mr. “N.” or “M.” tells us his name is Regnier; that he was born in Paris, in 1822; that he was a landowner in France; that, on the first war rumours, he invested money in an English and American patent; and that he is now living in England, perfectly independent of his property in France. On Sept. 12 he wrote Madame Lebreton a letter, which he requested should be communicated to the Empress Eugénie, then at Hastings. He said:—“The Ambassador in London of the North German Confederation, who will soon be the Ambassador of a German empire extending from the Baltic to Trieste, with 55,000,000 inhabitants, may possibly say, ‘I think the King of Prussia would prefer treating for peace with the Imperial Government rather than the Republic.’ If so, I shall start to-morrow for Wilhelmshöhe, after having paid a visit to the Empress. The following are the propositions I intend to submit to the Emperor:—1. That the Regent ought not to quit French territory. 2. That the Imperial fleet is French territory. 3. That the fleet, which received the Empress Regent with so much enthusiasm on its departure for the Baltic, or at least a portion of the fleet, howsoever small it prove, be taken by the Regent for her Government seat; thus enabling her to go from one to another of the French ports where she can count upon the largest number of adherents, and so prove that her Government exists de jure and de facto. 4. That the Empress Regent issue from the fleet four proclamations—viz., to foreign Governments, to the fleet, to the army, and to the French people.”

On Sept. 14 Mr. “N.” saw Madame Lebreton at the Marine Hotel, Hastings. She said the Empress had read his letter, but that her Majesty's feelings were that the interests of France should take precedence of those of the dynasty, and that she had the greatest horror of any step likely to bring about a civil war. He addressed another letter to Madame Lebreton, and subsequently saw three officers of the Imperial household, who told

him that the Empress would not stir in the matter. He then said he should go to the Emperor, at Wilhelmshöhe. He adds:—“I made the following request to M. Fillion, who was to assist at the young Prince's retirement to rest. ‘I will bring you a large photographic view of Hastings which I have at the hotel; will you ask the Prince Imperial to write me a line on it to his father? It will be the apparent motive for my journey, and will be useful to me to obtain an audience. You will mention it this evening to her Majesty; if she consents to it you will give it me to-morrow morning at seven o'clock; if she refuses it, you can tear it up.’ He saw nothing to object to in this, and ten minutes later I gave him a small packet containing a photographic view of Hastings and two stereoscopic views of the same place. Next morning, Sept. 17, I went to M. Fillion's room, and he gave me the photographic view, at the bottom of which were written the following words:—‘My dear papa, I send you these views of Hastings, hoping they will please you. Louis Napoleon.’ Also the two stereoscopic views, at the back of which was the signature ‘Louis Napoleon.’ He told me it was with her Majesty's consent that these papers were given to me; but that she also added:—‘Tell M. Regnier that there must be great danger in carrying out his project, and that I beg him not to attempt its execution.’”

On Sept. 17 he saw Baron David, formerly Minister, and two days later, hearing of the meeting of Count Bismarck and M. Jules Favre at Meaux, he hastened thither, where he arrived on the 20th. Here is what passed at the first interview:—“Count Bismarck sat down at his desk, inviting me to do likewise; I opened my portfolio and drew from it the photographic view of Hastings on

rose, saying, “Be so good as to present my respectful homage to his Imperial Majesty when you arrive at Wilhelmshöhe.” Count Bismarck received him again at eight, when Mr. N. commenced:—“Firstly, I will go at once to Metz and Strasbourg, and see the commander-in-chief of each place; and I will make an agreement that those two towns shall only be surrendered in the Emperor's name. Secondly. By virtue of a proclamation, the members of the Senate of the Corps Législatif and the State Council shall reassemble in the town of . . . on the . . . Thirdly. Another proclamation to the people, in which must be stated that the Left, by the violent manner in which they seized on the Government, compels us now to make a less advantageous treaty of peace than we need otherwise have done. That all Imperial functionaries shall resume their duties after the 1st of October, when the Empress Regent should resume the reins of government.”

Count Bismarck, in answer to some further observations, said:—“Sir,—Fate has already decided; to blind yourselves to that fact is not the action of an indomitable nature, but of an undecided one. Nothing can prevent what is from being as it is. Do what you can to bring before us someone with power to treat with us, and you will have rendered a great service to your country. I will give orders for a ‘general safe-conduct’ to be given you, which will allow of your travelling in all German possessions and everywhere in places occupied by our troops. A telegram shall precede you to Metz, which will facilitate your entrance there.”

Mr. N. described in a letter to Count Bismarck the disguise in which he should go into Metz, and proceeds:—“They need not

pay attention to me when I come out. In the event of Marshal Bazaine acceding to all my conditions, either Marshal Canrobert or General Bourbaki (to whom I shall give an exact account of all that will be requisite for the success of my plan) must consent to enforce it with all his influence on the army. He might go out with my papers, dressed in my clothes, wrapped in my shawl, after giving me his word of honour that he was to be for everyone except her Majesty the Empress simply M. Regnier. He would reside with my family at Hastings. A letter from me to her Majesty, of which he would be the bearer, would acquaint her with everything under the seal of secrecy. If everything were to succeed as I have anticipated, then, and only then, he might establish his identity, and might make known that he left Metz in the night in a balloon; but only in the event of his placing himself at the head of the army, with orders to defend the Chamber, reassembled if possible at a seaport town, where a portion of the fleet on which they could depend might also be present. The treaty would be signed the same day, I myself not being present. If nothing could be done, the Marshal or the General would return, under my name, and resume his post.”

On Sept. 23 Mr. N. interviewed Marshal Bazaine, who told him it would be as much as he could do to hold out till Oct. 18, and that only by living on the flesh of the officers' horses. He adds:—“The Marshal hailed with delight the proposal that he should be allowed a free passage for himself and army, with their colours, artillery, ammunition, &c., through the enemy's lines, on strict parole not to fight against the Germans during the remainder of the campaign; but that it was to be an understood thing first of all with me that both himself and his army would put themselves at the disposition of the Chamber and the Imperial Government, the only legal one, which would then be de facto. All this General Bourbaki was to explain to the Empress, whereas he explained nothing at all. It would appear that from the moment he found himself outside Metz he had but one unceasing regret—that of having left it—and every other consideration vanished from his brain.”

Mr. N. left Marshal Bazaine, who signed his name under that of the Prince Imperial on the stereoscopic view of Hastings, in order that Count Bismarck might see Mr. N. was speaking with the Marshal's authority. General Bourbaki meanwhile left Metz. On Sept. 28 Mr. N. again saw Count Bismarck, who thus addressed him:—“The conditions of an armistice have not been complied with. I find in M. Jules Favre nothing but a lawyer; and I am surprised and sorry that you, who appear to be a practical man, after having been permitted to enter Metz with the certainty of being able to leave it, and without being troubled about your papers, a favour never before accorded, should have left it without some more formal recognition of your right to treat than a photograph with the Marshal's signature, and a letter to his wife, where, it is true, I see it is understood that you should act for him.

But I, Sir, am a diplomatist of more than twelve years' standing, and this is not enough for me. I regret it; but I find myself compelled to relinquish all further communication till your powers are better defined.” Count Bismarck sent this telegram to Marshal Bazaine:—“Does Marshal Bazaine authorise M. Regnier to treat for the surrender of Metz?” Marshal Bazaine's reply was as follows:—“I cannot reply in the affirmative to these questions. I have told M. Regnier that I cannot arrange for the capitulation of the city of Metz.” M. Regnier went to Chiswellhurst and saw the Empress, but could not alter her opinions. “She feared (he says) that posterity would, if she yielded, only see in the fact a proof of dynastic selfishness; and that dishonour would be attached to the name of whoever should sign a treaty based upon a cession of territory. I answered her logically on all these points; but what chance has logic against sentiment? I told her of the fearful misery I had witnessed in the country—the complete ruin, village after village entirely deserted, the inhabitants seeking refuge in the woods, and camping there without shelter; all these people already not knowing where to find food; and the winter coming on, with famine staring them in the face, threatening the destruction of them all if some one does not come quickly to their assistance, and in a definite manner. I spoke for some time in this strain, and it was half-past eight o'clock when I took leave of her Majesty, whose dinner had been awaiting her since seven o'clock.”

In connection with this narrative we may mention that a semi-official communiqué has been published at Berlin, which denies that Count Bismarck sent a messenger to the Empress Eugénie no Sept. 15, and that he asked her for a cession of territory.

THE COMING ECLIPSE.

THE curiosity that is at all times excited by the occurrence of a celestial phenomenon has been especially heightened with respect to the solar eclipse of Dec. 22 next, on account of the ungracious reception which the Government at first accorded to an applica-



THE PAYNE MEMORIAL, IN HIGHGATE CEMETERY.

which the Prince Imperial had written, ‘My dear Papa, I send you these views of Hastings, hoping they will please you. Louis Napoleon;’ and presented it to him. After he had deliberated upon it for some time, I looked fixedly at him, and said, ‘I come, Count, to ask you to grant me a pass which will permit me to go to Wilhelmshöhe and give this photograph into his Majesty's hands.’ He also looked fixedly at me; there were a few moments of silence, and he then addressed me thus, as I felt firmly convinced he would do:—‘Sir, our position is before you; what can you offer us? With whom can we treat? Our determination to profit by our present position, to avoid in the future—for a long time to come at least—any fresh war with France, is fixed. To obtain this an alteration of the frontiers of France is indispensable to us. On the other hand, we find ourselves in the presence of two Governments—the one de facto, the other de jure: we cannot alter their position, and it is difficult, if not impossible, for us to treat with either the one or the other. The neutral Powers will be glad to see the situation cleared up. The Empress Regent has quitted French territory, and since then she has given no signs of life. After the taking of Sedan, a treaty ought to have been signed; and a few words that I dropped in an interview at which were present Messieurs de Castelnau and Pietri, might have, if they had been willing, given rise to more serious pourparlers, but they appeared unwilling to understand them. The Provisionary Government for the Defence either will not or cannot accept this condition of a diminution of territory, but proposes an armistice in order to consult the French people on the question, and we can afford to wait. We have here 400,000 men who live on occupied and conquered soil. When Metz and the other towns surrender we shall have from 500,000 to 600,000 who can remain here for the winter. When we find ourselves face to face with a Government de facto and de jure able to treat on the basis we propose, then we will treat. For the present we need not make known our requirements as to a cession of territory, seeing that it is declined in toto.’ M. Jules Favre being ready for an interview, Count Bismarck

tion from the astronomers of the country for assistance to enable them to take that advantage of the occasion which the present state of science demands. With their customary foresight, the celestial philosophers arranged their programme of operations early in the year. An accurate calculation of the path which the moon's shadow would follow as it swept across the earth, and the graphical projection of that path upon a map, at once determined the stations at which observers must be located to make the most of the event. The line along which the sun will be seen totally eclipsed stretches from the North Atlantic across the south of Spain, passing almost centrally over Odemira, Tavira, Cadiz, and Estepona; then passes over Algeria, cutting Oran and Batna, and goes through Syracuse in Sicily away into Turkey and Greece. The duration of total obscuration at any of these places will be a few seconds greater or less than two minutes, an interval too short to make the eclipse a highly important one; and the probable value is further diminished by the low altitude of the sun, and the consequent possibility of winter mists impairing the observations. All astronomical and meteorological conditions having been fully considered, it was decided to send, if possible, observing parties to the neighbourhood of Cadiz and to Syracuse. The observing forces were marshalled, and about sixty gentlemen who had expressed their willingness to make the journey were told off for the various departments of observation, to which we shall have presently to allude. Ship accommodation was required to convey those to the two stations, and a sum of money was wanted to increase the grant of £500 which the Royal Society and the Royal Astronomical Society jointly voted to defray the cost of instrumental equipment. The Admiralty were asked for two vessels, according to precedent derived from the eclipse expedition of 1860, and for a grant of £1000; and, although the unofficial *pourparlers* were reasonably hopeful, and although, as it has since transpired, Mr. Childers looked favourably upon the application, an answer was, after several weeks' delay, returned to the effect that ships could not be lent, and that for money the Treasury must be applied to. To the official mystery here involved there is no present clue. Piqued at their repulse, and probably thinking that the money without the ships would be of no avail, the astronomers, represented by a joint committee of the societies above named, let the matter rest. Some indignation was aroused, and found vent for a time in appeals to public sympathy; but when an American astronomical party came to England to arrange for observing the eclipse, and brought £6000 of their Government money in their pockets, and actually offered to do for the English observers what the English Government apparently declined to do, the necessity for pressing the matter further was more than apparent. A deputation was named to urge the claims of the occasion upon Mr. Gladstone; but, before this could be organised, Mr. Lockyer, one of the prime movers in the business, waited informally upon Mr. Lowe, and found him entirely favourable to the bestowal of any reasonable amount of aid. A ship was promised, and £2000—twice the amount originally asked for—was named as the maximum sum that an authorised committee might expect to have placed to their account.

We will now pass to the consideration of the phenomena which are revealed by a solar eclipse, and the particular point of interest attaching to observations of the one under notice. For our present purpose, we may consider the astronomical data derivable from a solar eclipse as of two kinds. One refers to the movements of the moon, the other to the physical constitution of the sun. The first concerns us just now so little that we may dismiss it by saying that the appearance of the moon against or in front of the sun allows an observation of our satellite's place in the heavens to be made at a very critical point in her orbit—namely, when she is in a direct line between the earth and the sun. This observation is of great importance to mathematical astronomy, but it can only be completely made at a fixed observatory—which, by-the-way, need not be on the line of totality, and it would not be included in the programme of an observing expedition to a far country. Such an expedition must devote itself to the acquirement of physical and cosmical knowledge from appearances which are only shown when the disc of the moon completely hides the disc of the sun, and permits the view of certain solar surroundings which are otherwise too faint to be seen. These surroundings are of twofold character: First, there is a silvery white, glowing radiation of considerable breadth which encircles the moon apparently—but doubtless the sun really—like the glory which painters depict around the heads of sainted personages. This has been seen in eclipses from the earliest times, and the first chroniclers of its appearance gave it the name of "corona," by which it has since been known. Second, there is close to the sun a narrow fringe of brilliant red excrescences, which were first noticed during an eclipse in 1706, and for a time supposed to be an atmosphere around the moon. The records of this early observation, and of another similar to it near its date, were forgotten by astronomers till the observers of the eclipse of 1842 were electrified upon beholding at the instant of totality a number of flame-coloured masses of light protruding, as it were, from the black lunar disc. From that time the "red prominences," as they were called, became the paramount features of a solar eclipse. In the eclipses of 1851 and 1860 the greatest pains were bestowed upon the observation of them, photography lending its valuable aid upon the second occasion. In Mr. De la Rue's hands the camera telescope did excellent work, and by the evidence that the unerring photographs afforded, it was settled that the red, sometimes cloud-like sometimes flame-like, protuberances certainly pertained to the sun. By the date of the next important eclipse (1868), a new tool, the spectroscope, was in the hands of observers. How well they used it in India those who take even a small interest in scientific progress will remember. The little prism of glass, that had already told wonders concerning the materials that supply the solar furnaces, then added to its triumphs by showing that these red excrescences are part of a shell of glowing gas surrounding the solar globe. But even this achievement was out-triumphed before the year was closed. A consideration of the manner in which the spectroscope disperses, and therefore dilates, that heterogeneous mass which comes from the sun's general surface—while it allows to pass unaffected the homogeneous light which emanates from gaseous bodies, such as the prominences—was proved to be—the consideration of this diverse action suggested to Messrs. Lockyer in England and M. Jansen in India, to try whether the prominences could not be seen without an eclipse, by turning their spectroscopes to the edge of the sun. They independently made the experiment, and were rewarded by the sight of the red, glowing solar clouds, in spite of the dazzling brilliancy of the sun. They virtually put out the sun by really spreading its light over such an area as to make the resulting brightness less than that of the prominences—the light of which will not spread itself—and then these were clearly seen. The red surroundings have now become familiar things, and their ever-changing positions and appearances around the whole circumference of the solar disc are day by day graphically recorded. It will be understood that, although they are only seen upon the sun's border, they really cover the whole globe; for the " prominences" are but the higher parts of an irregular and tempestuous atmosphere of glowing gas with which the globe is enveloped.

Into the vast field of inquiry and speculation which has been opened out by this easy method of constantly studying the sun's flaming atmosphere—which seems to float over his incandescent surface like a mist hovering over a lake, and to be intimately associated with spots and other solar surface phenomena—we have not time to enter. Suffice it for us that there is no longer need for an eclipse to render the red shell's contour visible, and that it will, therefore, receive small attention in December next. In the early stage of the preparatory arrangements it was proposed to provide apparatus for again photographing the eclipse phenomena, but it was never clearly settled whether the prominences or the corona would be the subject of the light-painters' operations.

We mention in passing that "Baily's beads" no longer attract eclipse observers' attention. Their appearance is due simply to

the sun's light glinting between the mountains on the moon's edge just before the moment of total eclipse. They were soon explained out of interest.

The outstanding object upon which all, or wellnigh all, attention will be concentrated during the Christmastide eclipse will be the corona. The highest curiosity exists as to its origin and the part it plays in the solar economy. Theories concerning it exist in plenty. It has been held to be a glare in our own atmosphere; but the whole of it certainly cannot arise from this cause. Then it has been regarded as an atmosphere of the moon; but this supposition is quite untenable. It may be an extensive atmosphere about the sun; a vast envelope of gaseous or finely divided solid matter, overlying that red shell which, for convenience, we have called an atmosphere elsewhere. It may be a dense portion of the zodiacal light; it may be the crowding region of the vast meteor streams that circulate in cometary orbits around the sun, and which must be numerous enough to cause such a cloud at their perihelion swarming place. These are hypotheses. For facts we only know that a bright part of the light near the sun seems to be tolerably persistent, and that fainter outlying parts, which shoot out in sheaves two or three times as long as the sun's diameter, seem to vary their form in the course of an eclipse, and to present different appearances to different observers. For helps to acquire more facts we have photography (for it can be applied in the short time available for preparations), the spectroscope, and the polariscope. The former of these will, it is hoped, determine whether the silvery light comes from a luminous gas or from solid matter in a state of incandescence (metaphorically, whether it is the light of a red-hot iron or the light of glowing hydrogen), or it will show if the two qualities of light are both present. The polariscope will determine whether the light is the corona's own self-generated luminosity, or whether it is reflected sunlight—whether the corona is a source of light itself, or whether it is a mist lit up by the sun. And as the corona seems to possess a double character, it will be necessary that both instruments be applied to the inlying and the outlying regions of it. Moreover, to each spectroscope several persons must be attached, and two at least to each polariscope; for the time of total obscuration is so short that it must be compensated by division of labour.

To analyse the light of the corona and, as far as possible, to decide its source are, then, the main ends of the December observations. There have been observations, spectroscopic and polariscope, made on previous occasions; but they have been too conflicting to supply any evidence of value. Other matters will receive their share of attention, but these shares will be small. Mainly to solve this last of existing eclipse enigmas has America sent some of her highest official philosophers to Europe, well equipped for their task. With the aid that has now been given to our own observers, England and America will pretty well hold the honours of the eclipse between them. France and Prussia are out of the game, though the former, having an observatory at Algiers, may do something. Spain has an observatory near Cadiz, and she has sent a welcome to the astronomers foreign to her. Those, we believe, are the only State relations to the science of the coming eclipse.—*Telegraph.*

FINE ARTS.

DUDLEY GALLERY.

THIS, the fourth winter exhibition of cabinet pictures at the pleasant little gallery at the Egyptian Hall, is one of the most agreeable reminders of the season. The rooms are light; the paintings well hung; and the collection consists of a number of interesting works not too numerous to tire, but sufficiently varied to attract the visitor from beginning to end of the catalogue. In 280 pictures there are few that do not repay careful attention, and many of them will be remembered long after they have disappeared from the walls of the gallery as having suggested pleasant thoughts and happy reflections. Among the landscapes, of which there are a goodly number, are some admirable examples; and at the outset attention is arrested by a group of which Mr. John Burr's "Near Haslemere" is one of the principal attractions, because of its apparent facility of handling and the excellent management of the distance. "Sussex in September" (6), by Mr. J. W. Bottomley, is also a pretty little pastoral bit; and Mr. W. L. Wyllie's "Berks and Bucks" (13) is a charming representation of a hayfield with a finely-rendered sky, troubled by the overcast of a cloudy day in summer. A very sweet, tender picture is Mr. Field Talbourn's "Early Morning, Henley" (27); and, as an example of exquisite woodland painting, Mr. Frank Walton's "Lowly Valley" (53) will at once secure attention. "Near Medhurst, Sussex" (74), by Mr. Arthur Ditchfield, is a capital example of that gentleman's pleasantest work. A very remarkable little picture, called "Sunshine on a Sandheap" (102), by Mr. W. B. Redfern, shows how much may be done by a careful and appreciative study of nature. Mr. George Mawley has two charming little pictures—"Cottages, Wiltshire" (103), and "A Road near Bath" (115), both very noticeable for quiet effect and skilful finish. "Crossing the Hermus, Asia Minor" (140), by Hortense Wood, is a finely-rendered scene in the desert, remarkable for the force and finish of atmospheric effect and harmonious colouring. Mr. Harry Goodwin sends an attractive bit of woodland and water, under the title of "Black Rabbit Inn, Arundel" (159), a picture which any lover of art might covet to hang in some favourite nook where it might often be looked at quietly.

"A Heath—Gleamy Weather" (178), by Mr. H. W. B. Davis, is also a fine bit of colour and consummate handling; and "Old Battersea Bridge" (193), by Mr. Albert Goodwin, may be mentioned in the same pleasant list.

"A Peep of Ferrara," seen through a cottage window, is Mr. Boldini's contribution to the gallery, and is attractive for its quaint originality, the quaint inquiring expression of the girl, who seems to be silly watching the artist, being peculiarly happy.

"A Glade" (211), by Alen Wurt, and Mr. W. H. Mason's charming views in Sussex, entitled "Between the Lights" (217) and "Amberley from the Brooks" (223), are among the admirable examples of landscape in this collection.

Of water scenery there are some very fine paintings, beginning with Mr. C. Napier Hemy's "Thames at Limehouse" (12), a fine realistic picture of such a striking character that it is sure to arrest the notice of the visitor. "A Barge, with Wreck in Tow" (20), by Mr. Robert Leslie, is a very fine painting, with a remarkable effect of morning sky—a dark shutter of cloud opening to the cool bright daylight. Mr. C. J. Lewis's "Excursion" (23) is so charming a bit of river scenery, with tree-fringed sedgy banks and glints of reflected light, that it is a thing to linger over. "The Morning Meal" (26), by Mr. H. Macallum, is a boat-scene, forcible, but coarsely, painted, with solid shadow and too little atmosphere. The same may be said of Mr. C. Napier Hemy's "Harbour of St. Ives" (43), which is almost aggressive in its solid reality, without the softening influence of any atmospheric medium. "The Return of the Patron Saints to Venice" (78), by Mr. A. B. Donaldson, is a partial imitation of medieval painting which we cannot regard as successful. "Aberdeen from the Harbour" (98), by Mr. C. Davidson, jun., is well executed, and with fine pearly atmosphere and effective cloud and shadow. "The Old Mill," by Mr. E. H. Fahey, is a capital water subject, because of its precision and boldness of rendering the liquid reflection in the pool; and "Breakers" (123), by Mr. W. L. Wyllie, is a vigorous representation of the foam and tumble of waves breaking on a low bench. "The Providence" (201), by Mr. Birket Foster, represents a lazy old barge swinging quietly in a lovely, weedy river reach, such as can be seen nowhere out of England. Mr. Ludwig Hermann sends a painting of "Bruges Canal" (229), carefully finished and fine in tone and colour; and a "Dutch Haven Scene" (242), by the same artist, is noticeable for the same high qualities.

In genre and figure-subjects the exhibition is most attractive; and, among a number of excellent pictures, we notice at the beginning a capital painting by Mr. G. H. Garraway, entitled

"Thieves," and representing a number of young scamps robbing the stall of a sleeping applewoman. "Guilty or Not Guilty," by Mr. J. Hayllar, is a charming bit of domestic life—the attitude and expression of the baby offender being exquisitely natural. In his picture of "Dead Abel" (34) Mr. Elihu Vedder has aimed high, but has fallen short in performance; there is a suggestion of something greater than the realisation of the artist, the painting is crude and unsympathetic, and, worse than all, Abel is not dead—the limbs, the face, the flesh are not those of a dead, but of a sleeping man. "Cosette" (46) is the name of a very charming picture by Mr. G. H. Boughton, representing the heroine of "Les Misérables," as expressed in the quotation,

Comme l'âme est triste quand elle est triste par l'amour;

and it is altogether a tender and beautiful work. "Hide and Seek" (47) is a humorous and pleasant little scene of children at play in a stone cellar or outbuilding, where the extent of the gloomy nooks and corners add a half terrible interest to the amusement. Miss Louisa Starr sends a prettily-finished "Undine" (60), and Miss Alice M. Thorneycroft, under the title of "London Leads," exhibits a capital representation of what may be done on the roof of a house in town in the way of metropolitan gardening.

M. Guillaume Regamey's group of horses is a striking and finely-executed work; but, perhaps, the two most attractive animal pictures in the exhibition are those of Mr. Briton Rivière, "Conscience" (128), representing a dog detected in having torn up a letter, and exhibiting an intensity of craven slinking cowardice that is something wonderful; and "For Sale"—the display of the paces of two or three wretched horses by the fellows who are anxious to dispose of them. Pictures so full of character and with such a subtle blending of humour and realism are seldom seen. One of the finest pictures in the gallery is that of Mr. H. Wallis, entitled "His Highness and His Excellency the Ambassador of the Florentine Republic" (93)—so finely handled and with such exquisite depth of tone and harmony of colour that it cannot be properly regarded without appreciative study.

Miss M. Ellen Freer's "In Memoriam" will be a popular picture, for it includes just such a sentiment as appeals at once to popular sympathies. A charming girl is kissing the initials of her absent swain, which, with some lovers' symbol, have been carved on the bark of an old tree in a pleasant woodland nook.

"An Ale-House Chat, Westphalia," by Mr. Hugh Carter, is another popular picture of quite a different class, admirably finished, and with a thoroughly characteristic group, full of life and expression. We warn the weak-nerved visitor against the "St. Clement" of M. Alphonse Legros, as one of the most ill-favoured of the saints, though there is unmistakable power and character in the work. Mr. A. H. Tourrier sends one of his characteristic pictures—a Royalist standing looking to the priming of his petronel at the foot of a secret flight of stairs opening from the "sliding panel," which gives its name to the scene. "A Spanish Street Singer" (171), by Mr. Burgess, is a bit of real Spanish life, far more forcible than the work of his which we had to notice last week in the French Gallery. In "Dreaming" (188), Mr. Haynes King exhibits one of his exquisite pictures, remarkable for the beauty of the flesh tints and the wonderful texture of the girl's dress.

One of the most interesting pictures in the exhibition is that entitled "Highly Amused by the Passing Show" (252), by Mr. Philip Hoyoll, in which three children looking from a window are portrayed with a reality, freshness, and true childlike humour, which will surely gather sympathetic knots of appreciative visitors, who will afterwards remember it with many a laugh of enjoyment. With this and another admirably humorous picture, by Mr. A. W. Bayes, in which a sturdy farmer-like individual is contemplating his handkerchief with a profoundly puzzled expression, and saying, "Now, what in the world did I make this knot for?" we must conclude our notice, merely mentioning that the space on a small screen is devoted to a few highly-finished little pictures.

ART-PHOTOGRAPHS.

We have had our attention called to a new series of those exquisite photographic pictures of natural scenery which have been produced by Messrs. Robinson and Cherrill, and are now introduced by Messrs. Marion and Co., of Soho-square. In their marvellous finish and that rare quality of depth and intensity which not only preserves the sense of atmosphere, but also suggests actual colour, these beautiful works are almost unequalled as specimens of the art. Many of the landscapes are so charming that it seems almost an invidious distinction to turn from them to those sea views that are remarkable for the reality with which the dash and motion of the waves have been instantaneously rendered in the picture. "The Beached Margent of the Sea" and "The First Hour of Night" may perhaps be selected from above forty views as admirable examples of what it is now possible to effect by photographic art.

A RACE ON A RAILWAY.—An extraordinary circumstance, causing some delay, occurred on the line between Thirsk and Malton on Monday evening. Just as the train left the Pillmoor Junction, a woman driving a horse was seen crossing the line. The animal set off between the rails, and galloped several miles. The driver of the train could not get on, and had to pull up twice. Eventually the horse was got rid of at a gate-house crossing. Fortunately, it was not dark.

SEVERAL TOTAL LOSSES were reported at Lloyd's on Wednesday. The Dunnsdale, Captain Corrigal, of and from Shields for Barcelona, with coals, was lost on the 12th inst. in the chaps of the Channel. The Apollo, Captain Walker, of and from Aberdeen, was totally wrecked at Budle, near Berwick; the crew were saved. The Golden Grove, of and from Seaham, in ballast, sprung a leak and founded; the crew are at Bridlington. The ship Escape has been wrecked on the coast of Formosa. Two more ships are reported to be missing—viz., the Marion, screw-steamer, of Liverpool, which sailed from the Mersey on Oct. 11, with salt, for Dublin; and the River Mersey, barque, of Liverpool, which sailed from San Francisco, on March 8 last, with wheat, for Liverpool.

ETHNOLOGICAL SOCIETY.—The first meeting of the session 1870-1 was held, on Tuesday week, at the rooms, St. Martin's-place, Trafalgar-square—Dr. A. Campbell in the chair. Mr. Josiah Harris exhibited a dwarf club, found a short time ago, at the depth of 27 ft., in a solid bed of guano, on the South Guanape Island, off the coast of Peru. It is supposed that this club, which has faces carved upon it resembling those of the Peruvians, was deposited at a time unknown by some one from the coast, who had used it either as a staff of office, an instrument of warfare, or for the purpose of killing seals, with which the island abounds. In an interesting discussion, Mr. Harris said that the islands in this latitude literally swarmed with sea-birds, and that, so great was the quantity of guano to be found there that the British farmer need not despair of being plentifully supplied for the next twenty or thirty years. Colonel Lane Fox exhibited a rough stone implement, sent by Mr. Everett, from Borneo, the first implement of stone yet discovered in that island. Mr. Clement R. Markham and Mr. D. Forbes, F.R.S., entered into a discussion on the significance of the name "Aymara," applied to a race inhabiting part of Bolivia and Peru. This was followed by a paper read by Mr. Hector Maclean, on the Kimmerians and Atlanteans, two aboriginal races, from union of which he believed was derived a large part of the population of Spain, Portugal, France, and the British Isles. Owing, however, to the long period during which these races have been intermixed, an analysis of the compound was rendered very difficult, but not impossible. The Atlanteans were a dark race, and formed a chief ingredient in the population of Spain, the south and centre of France, South Wales, and the south and west of Ireland and Scotland. The Kimmerians were a fair people, characterised by tall stature, gaunt features, red complexion, grey eyes, and red or yellow hair. They occupied the British Isles, mixing with the Atlanteans previously to the arrival of the Scandinavians and Teutons. By means of names of places they have been traced in their migrations westward from their original known habitat between the Dan and the Voiga. They were known as the Galli, and by other names signifying white people. Mr. Maclean proceeded also to analyse the early languages and literature of the British Isles, pointing out those elements which characterise the Kimmerians, and those which are attributable to the Atlantean portions of the population. The Saxons and Angles were an intermixture of Kimmerians with Teutons. They had strong affinities with the Kimmerian portion of the previous population of Britain and on their arrival readily mixed with them, showing that the present population of England is more truly British or Kimmerian than the Welsh, and that our language is not the direct descendant of the Saxon conquerors, but of that and a kindred native language. A cordial vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Maclean at the close.

THE AMAZONS OF THE SEINE.

The "Amazons of the Seine" are, after all, not a myth. They have a real, corporeal existence. Felix belly has really found followers, veritable Amazons in him and the prussic-acid thimble. If believers in him and the prussic-acid thimble. If he can, at any rate, boast of a certain number of disciples. They have, it seems, besides his name, a local habitation in the quarter devoted to M. Flourens. Of all the ladies of Belleville they are the strongest-minded, the strongest-armed, the brawniest-fisted. They have manifested in favour of the Commune. Some twenty of them—a band of sisters—on Tuesday afternoon, Nov. 1, marched down the Faubourg du Temple in processional array, on their way to the Hôtel de Ville. They wore the képi, also the baggy-legged garment they triumphantly mono-polise at home. If they were armed with the prussic-acid thimble, it was concealed. The chassepot was absent, and their only revolvers were their eyes, which flashed with patriotic fire. But they were not unarmed. They were each provided with a stout cudgel. One of them carried a flag, upon which was inscribed the words—"We want the Commune!" The colour of the flag was red—a symbol of their bellicose aspirations and relentless determination. Undaunted by the gibes and jeers of the petrified citizens, they passed on their way. No one could possibly believe them to be merely masquerading. Their resolute bearing denoted that they held convictions. The cudgels were an earnest of their ability to defend them. When they reached the Boulevard, very young France began to shout, "St. Lazare! St. Lazare!" to what is called the tune of "Les Lampions." St. Lazare is the name of a prison set apart for penitent or impudent women. The virtuous Amazons were scandalised by the allusion and the implication. Very Young France shouted the more. Very Old France shrugged its shoulders. Middle-aged France roared and gibed. Female France shrieked with wicked delight. In the Rue du Temple unarmed National Guard France came to the rescue, with a view to prevent what was regarded as a joke from assuming scandalous proportions and culminating in a disturbance. But the "Amazons of the Seine" soon demonstrated that they did not carry cudgels for nothing. They fell upon the National Guard, not tooth and nail, but cudgel and fist, and laboured them as though they were Prussians. To return the blows was out of the question. National Guard France is chivalrous, and does not fight with women folk. A struggle for the cudgels took place, that was all. The red flag was laid low, trampled in the mud, and the staff broken. The situation was becoming critical. Victory trembled in the balance, with a dip for the Amazons. At this moment a National Guard was inspired with a bright idea. Seizing what remained of the flagstaff, he brandished it aloft, shouting, "To the Hôtel de Ville!" The ruse proved successful. "Follow me!" he cried. The Amazons followed him, but he conducted them to the police station at the corner of the Rue du Chaume, where the majority were duly cared for, awaiting a favourable opportunity of sending them home. The remainder of the corps, harassed by the crowd, took refuge in the bath establishment upon the Place de l'Hôtel de Ville. From time to time one of them was allowed to take her chance of getting away, but it was somewhat of a risk; although the crowd, now swelled to formidable proportions, only wanted a good laugh, and sought with this object to impede the flight of the Angels of the Commune. The last of these Angels, however, came to sudden grief. Her voice was so high, her gesticulations were so fierce and demonstrative, that four lusty National Guards seized her, and conveyed her bodily away to the Préfecture, followed by a cortège such as only similar incidents can improvise. This is no doubt the final appearance of the "Amazons of the Seine," alias the "Angels of the Commune." It is, nevertheless, an incident of the times quite worth recording.

THE LONDON GAZETTE.

FRIDAY, NOV. 11.

BANKRUPT.—C. J. BRIDGMAN, Harp-lane, Great Tower-street, wine merchant—T. COLLYER, Budge-row, rag merchant—J. M. DEAN, Stratford and Walthamstow, auctioneer—S. C. HOCKNELL, New Broad-street, merchant—J. BROWN, Sunderland, shipwright—M. E. COX, Walthamstow—P. BARROW, Almendariz, woolen manufacturer—J. E. BOINTON, South Stockton, hosiery—W. DIXON, Finsbury, cloth manufacturer—J. HENDRY, Shoreham, farmer—A. C. HOWS, Alford, poulterer—L. JACKSON, Middlewich, bookseller—A. PUDDY, Meare, baker—J. ROSE, Watford, grocer—W. SANSON, Ponder's End, builder—J. T. SWALLOW, Peterborough, auctioneer—J. WARD, Liverpool, cattle salesmen.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.—J. BELL, Glasgow, joiner—J. MIDDLETON, Glasgow, grain merchant—D. and J. FRASER, Inverness, flesher—PROVAN and MACPHERSON, Glasgow, power-loom manufacturers—R. SMART (deceased), Perth, cabinetmaker.

TUESDAY, NOV. 15.

BANKRUPTCY ANNULLED.—M. CARTER, Hartlepool, builder—P. P. BROWN RIGG, Liverpool, ship-chandler—A. DAVIES, Worcester, carpenter—J. EVANS, Halsall, Liverpool, licensed victualler—C. LAISTER, Tinsley, brewer—E. and T. RIDINGS, Liverpool, Manchester, and Preston, merchants and cotton dealers—J. VARLEY, High Wycombe, tailor.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.—D. LOWE, Glasgow, painter—J. and J. RAYNER, Edinburgh, glass manufacturers—J. RICH, Whithorn, saddler—D. MUNRO, Mains Cottage, near Dairy, spirit merchant and potato dealer—J. URQUHART, Broughty Ferry, brassfounder—J. WYLIE and A. MCLEAN, Kilmarnock, coachbuilders—J. BUDDO, Edinburgh, spirit dealer—J. DAVIDSON, Kirkton of Newtyle, farmer—J. SCOTT, Paulhouse, near Crofthead, draper.

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